



Deadly fire shuts down key route to Yosemite National Park

MARIPOSA, Calif. (AP) — A wildfire that killed a California firefighter grew quickly and forced the closure of a key route into Yosemite National Park as crews contended with sweltering conditions Sunday, authorities said. The blaze that broke out Friday scorched more than 6 square miles (16 square kilometers) of dry brush along steep, remote hillsides on the park's western edge. It was burning largely out of control, and officials shut off electricity to many areas, including Yosemite Valley, as a safety precaution. Guests were ordered to leave Yosemite Cedar Lodge on Saturday as flames crept up slopes and the air became thick with smoke. "You can't see anything, it's so smoky outside. It's crazy," said front desk clerk Spencer Arebalo, one of a handful of employees who stayed behind at the popular hotel inside the park. He said it was surreal to see the property empty at the height of tourist season. "We're counting on being closed at least one more day,"



Crews battle the Ferguson Fire along steep terrain behind the Redbud Lodge along Highway 140 near El Portal in Mariposa County, Calif., on Saturday, July 14, 2018.

Associated Press.

Arebalo said. Evacuations also were ordered in rural communities just outside the park, and people in nearby lodges and motels were told to be ready to leave if flames approach. A stretch of State Route 140 into Yosemite was closed, and motorists were urged to find alternate routes.

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Kushner tenants: We were pushed out for luxury condo buyers

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **GARANCE BURKE**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The hammering and drilling began just months after Jared Kushner's family real estate firm bought a converted warehouse apartment building in the hip, Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Tenants say it started early in the morning and went on until nightfall, so loud that it drowned out normal conversation, so violent it rattled pictures off the walls. So much dust wafted through ducts and under doorways that it coated beds and clothes in closets. Rats crawled through holes in the walls. Workers with passkeys barged in unannounced. Residents who begged for relief got a standard reply, "We have permits."

More than a dozen current and former residents of the building told The Associated Press that they believe the Kushner Cos.' relentless construction, along with rent hikes of \$500 a month or more, was part of a campaign to push tenants out of rent-stabilized apartments and bring high-paying condo buyers in.

If so, it was a remarkably successful campaign. An AP investigation found that over the past three years, more than 250 rent-stabilized apartments — 75 percent of the building — were either emptied or sold as the Kushner Cos. was converting the building to luxury condos. Those sales so far have totaled more than \$155 million, an average of \$1.2 million per apartment. "They won, they succeeded," says Barth Bazyluk, who left apartment C606 with his wife and baby daughter



This June 28, 2018 photo shows 184 Kent Avenue in the Brooklyn borough of New York owned by the Kushner Cos.

Associated Press.

in December. "You have to be ignorant or dumb to think this wasn't deliberate." This up-close look at one of the Kushner Cos.' largest residential buildings in New York illustrates what critics describe as the firm's sharp-elbowed business practices while it was run by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and eventual White House adviser Jared Kushner. The Kushner Cos. told the AP that it didn't harass any tenants to get them out. But the data suggest turnover at the building known as the Austin Nichols House was significantly higher than city averages for coveted rent-stabilized buildings, leaving behind a trail of anger, disrupted lives and a lawsuit to be filed Monday in which tenants say they were harassed and exposed to high levels of cancer-causing dust. "We've looked into hundreds of rent-stabilized

buildings and this is one of the worst we've ever seen," says Aaron Carr, head of tenant watchdog Housing Rights Initiative, whose investigation led to the pending lawsuit. "The scale and speed of tenants leaving, the conditions to which they were exposed, provides a window into the Kushner Cos.' predatory business model." In a statement, the Kushner Cos. acknowledged it received some complaints about construction during major renovations, which ended in December 2017, but said that it responded to them immediately and that "tremendous care was taken to prevent dust and inconvenience to tenants." It said many tenants moved out when their rent was increased to the maximum allowed under rent-stabilization rules. Those rules limit the amount that landlords can hike rent

each year to protect tenants from getting pushed out, though in this building the rents weren't cheap, with one-bedrooms going for more than \$3,000 a month. Also, the city's building department says it sent inspectors to the building dozens of times since 2015 and uncovered no evidence that construction rules were being violated, a finding that some residents say doesn't square with their experiences. The landmarked Austin Nichols House at 184 Kent Avenue, for decades a warehouse for groceries and Wild Turkey bourbon, was gutted by a previous owner in 2010 to create sleek apartments that took advantage of the building's high ceilings and waterfront views. When Jared Kushner and two partners bought it for \$275 million in April 2015,

they made it clear they wanted to convert the building's 338 apartments — all of them rent-stabilized — into condos. All but nine were occupied, and other than maxing out the rent, developers had few tools if they wanted to get tenants out. Just months after the purchase, the Kushners began extensive renovations, ripping out appliances, floors and countertops that had been installed five years before.

"There were consistently people in the hallway early, 8 or so, banging on things, taking down walls. There was lots of dust. ... They had fans, and they were blowing dust under the doors," says tech salesman Marcus Carvalho, who left the building in December after six years, deciding the \$1,000 or so increase in rent to renew his lease wasn't worth it. "I didn't want to spend another minute in that construction zone."

His 679-square-foot (63-square-meter), one-room apartment, B502, sold the next month for \$800,000.

A few weeks after Carvalho left, the woman in C405 couldn't take the noise anymore either.

"It's like having a root canal without the physical pain. ... It was drilling from every direction," says Jane Coxwell, a chef who works late nights and writes at home during the day. "It was impossible to take a call. You could never sit and read a book or get any work done."

Then came the rats, including one she accosted with a tennis racket as it teetered on a curtain rod in her bathroom.

Continued on Page 3

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Continued from Front

Spiking temperatures and inaccessible terrain was making it difficult for crews to slow the flames, U.S. Forest Service fire Capt. Mike Seymour said.

Heavy fire equipment operator Braden Varney, 36, died early Saturday on the fire line, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. Varney was driving a bulldozer to create a gap in vegetation to keep the flames from extending into a nearby community, according to Cal Fire Fire Chief Nancy Koerperich.

Varney's body likely won't be retrieved until Monday at the earliest because it's

in a "precarious location" and conditions were too dangerous over the weekend, Cal Fire Deputy Chief Scott McLean said.

The wildfire is one of several burning across the state and among 56 large blazes that are active in the U.S., most in the American West, a region that is struggling with drought and heat.

A blaze near the California-Oregon border that killed a 72-year-old resident and injured three firefighters was almost entirely contained after burning more than 60 square miles (155 square kilometers) of dry brush.

Crews got full control over a stubborn fire that scorched 142 square miles

(368 square kilometers) of brush and destroyed 20 structures in Yolo and Napa counties. Investigators said an electric livestock fence that was improperly installed sparked the flames. In the fire near Yosemite, investigators were trying to find out more details about Varney's death Saturday, but they believe he was working his way out of the fire area when he was killed, Koerperich said.

"This certainly is going to be devastating to his family and those of us who call him family here with Cal Fire," she said.

Varney had worked for Cal Fire for 10 years. His father also worked as a Cal Fire

heavy equipment operator. He is survived by his wife, Jessica; daughter Malhea, 5; and son Nolan, 3. Gov. Jerry Brown ordered

flags at the California Capitol to be flown at half-staff to honor "a man who dedicated his life to protecting his fellow Californians." □

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Continued from Page 2

She also had to contend with a flood after workers hit a pipe in the unit above her and with the constant fear workers would burst into her apartment at any moment after two with passkeys tried to do just that, once while she was in her underwear.

Coxwell says she sent dozens of emails to Kushner managers for more than a year asking for help, but got little relief.

One particularly noisy day she finally broke down, walked up to a construction manager and worker standing near her door and found herself forcing the words out through tears.

"I understand you have to work, but I don't know how to ask anymore," she pleaded. "Please, please, can you keep it down?"

She says the men just laughed.

Much of the work was done in 2016, and then the Kushners went on a selling spree. In 2017 alone, the

company sold 99 apartments in the building, according to Jared Kushner's federal financial disclosure forms.

Brokerage data show an additional 16 apartments sold by early March 2018. That same month Kushner Cos. had 151 vacant apartments in the building, according to a court document.

The Kushner Cos. refused to confirm the numbers.

At the height of the construction, tenants fought back with three dozen complaints to the city's 311 hotline about work after hours, banging and pounding, falling debris and rodents.

After people complained about dust, Kushner Cos. put plastic sheeting around doorways, though many say it didn't help much. And after they complained about workers entering their apartments without permission, the company eventually posted guards in hallways. □

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Man killed by Chicago police ran away, reached for waist

By **DON BABWIN**, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A man killed by Chicago police had a gun in a holster at his hip and was shot multiple times as he ran away, spun around and reached toward his waist, according to footage released Sunday from an officer's body-worn camera.

Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said it's the quickest he has ever ordered such video released and that he hoped to dispel rumors that Harith Augustus, 37, was unarmed. He also hoped that making the 30-second clip public before a planned protest would prevent another violent confrontation between residents and officers.

Protesters angry about the killing Saturday took to the streets in a city that's struggled with police shootings, especially against black men and other minorities. Some threw rocks and bottles at officers — including ones filled with urine — and police pulled people to the ground and hit them with batons.

"The community needs some answers and they need them now," he told reporters Sunday. "We can't have another night like last night."

He said Augustus' family was in favor of releasing the video for the same reason. Four protesters were arrested in the clash, and some police officers suffered minor injuries. Two squad cars also were damaged.

The video, which lacks sound, shows four officers approaching Augustus outside a store on the city's South Side. An officer points to Augustus' waist and he backs away. Three officers try to grab his arms and he tries to get away, backing into a police cruiser as his shirt flies up and shows the gun.

The footage pauses and zooms in on the weapon, which police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said was done to ensure a semi-automatic handgun in its holster and two bullet magazines tucked into Augustus' waist could be seen clearly. Augustus then runs away and into the street as a po-



This frame grab from police body cam video provided by the Chicago Police Department shows authorities trying to apprehend a suspect, center, who appeared to be armed, Saturday, July 14, 2018, in Chicago.

Associated Press.

lice SUV drives up. He spins and darts between the SUV and the police cruiser as he reaches toward his waist. Augustus did not fire his weapon and the footage does not show him pulling the gun out of its holster, though he does appear to try to grab something at his waist, Guglielmi said. Police also released a 50-second slow-motion clip showing

Augustus reaching toward his waist. It's not clear if he was going for the weapon. Augustus died of multiple gunshot wounds, medical examiners said. He wasn't a known gang member and had no recent arrest history, Guglielmi said.

Johnson said Augustus had a valid firearm owners' identification card but detectives have found no documentation that he had a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

A resident of the area, Gloria Rainge, told the Chicago Sun-Times that Augustus, known in the Grand Crossing neighborhood as "Snoop," worked at a barbershop and had a 5-year-old daughter.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson called the shooting a tragedy and said in a statement that it's a blessing Augustus didn't bring the girl with him Saturday, as he's known to do.

Officers patrolling on foot tried to question the man over a "bulge around his waistband" that suggested he was armed, patrol chief

Fred Waller has told reporters.

The Civilian Office of Police Accountability, which investigates officer-involved shootings, said it was analyzing the video and asking anyone who may have captured cellphone footage to share it with the agency.

It was at least the third time in the last two weeks that a Chicago police officer shot someone.

Chicago has a troubled history of police shootings. The city erupted in protest in 2015 after the release of a video showing a white police officer shoot a black 17-year-old, Laquan McDonald, 16 times a year earlier.

The officer, Jason Van Dyke, was charged with murder. McDonald's death led to the ouster of the police chief and a series of reforms meant to prevent future police abuses and to hold officers accountable. Jackson referenced the case as he called for video into Augustus' shooting to be released. □



Members of the Chicago police department scuffle with an angry crowd at the scene of a police-involved shooting in Chicago, on Saturday, July 14, 2018.

Associated Press.

C'est la vie: Canadians still visiting US despite trade flap

By DAVID SHARP, Associated Press

OLD ORCHARD BEACH, Maine (AP) — The United States and Canada are engaged in a trade dispute, angering Canadians, but it doesn't seem to be having an impact on tourism. Not yet, anyway.

In Old Orchard Beach, popular with Quebecers, innkeepers report that Canadian tourism remains strong despite the harsh words last month when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vowed that Canada "won't be pushed around" and President Donald Trump called the prime minister "weak" and "dishonest."

Several weeks later, Canada imposed billions of dollars in retaliatory tariffs in response to the Trump administration's duties on Canadian steel and aluminum.

Mostepha Azizi, a vacationer from Montreal, said he's confident the war of words will end and that "reason will prevail" between the neighbors.

"For me, it's just a question of time," he said. "This thing will settle down. Trudeau and Trump have to find a solution to the problem."

Canada accounts for the largest number of international visitors to the U.S., with more than 20 million visitors pumping nearly \$20 billion into the U.S. economy, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The number of Canadians heading south has grown this year, and the flap between Trump and Trudeau after last month's G7 summit in Quebec didn't change that.

Border crossing data indicates the number of Canadian motorists returning from the U.S. in June grew 12.7 percent from last year, a healthy increase, according to a license plate-scanning system used by the Canadian government. A so-called "Trump Slump" never materialized after Trump's election, and travel to the U.S. is growing despite anecdotal evidence that some Canadians are choosing to travel elsewhere, said Allison Wallace,

of Flight Centre Canada, a travel agency with 150 locations across Canada.

"All of that being said, we've not seen a trade war like this, so that may change," she said, "but as of now, the U.S. remains a very popular destination."

Florida accounts for the largest number of visitors from the north, typically snowbirds in the winter. New England is also a popular destination, and beaches like Old Orchard Beach and Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, are an easy drive from Canada's Atlantic provinces.

In Old Orchard, Canadian flags are flown and many desk workers speak French. Fries are served up Canadian-style, topped with vinegar, or with gravy and cheese.

For now, the value of the Canadian dollar is having a bigger impact than the flap between the leaders. The loonie is currently worth only 76 cents in the U.S.

Claire Beaulieu, an owner of the Motel Kebek 2, said Canadians will keep coming because of the 7-mile stretch of sandy beach with plenty of rooms, food and a beachside amusement park. Canadians account for 95 percent of her bookings, she said.

For tourism, visitors are more interested in amenities than politics, even though many are baffled by the U.S. president's actions, she said.

Fred Kennedy, owner of Aoulette Beach Resort, said his bookings are strong despite the relatively weak Canadian dollar, and he predicts relations between the countries will improve.

"I think it's going to blow over," he said. "By this time next year, things will be patched up."

Down the beach, at Kebek 3, owner Suzanne Beaulieu said her bookings were strong, too, but she acknowledged that could change next year if U.S.-Canadian relations remain frosty.

At least one customer advised her she'll rethink her plans next summer.

"She said, 'As long as Trump is in office, I don't think I'll be



In this Tuesday, June 26, 2018 photo, a family watches the moon rise over the Atlantic Ocean near The Pier in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Old Orchard Beach has long been a popular summer destination for French-speaking Canadians from Quebec.

Associated Press.

back," she said.

Vacationer Stella Bigras, of Laval, Quebec, said the trade flap and war of words are between two leaders. Regular folks, she said, still

get along just fine.

"We are friends. We are neighbors," she said.

"I hope we're going to stay friends, and Trump and Trudeau will calm down. □

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US judge criticizes plan to reunify families split at border



In this June 28, 2018 file photo, protesters chant "Families belong together!" as they walk to the front doors of the federal courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, to bring attention to the U.S. immigration policy.

Associated Press.

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A federal judge, responding to a plan to reunify children separated at the border, said he was having second

thoughts about his belief that the Trump administration was acting in good faith to comply with his orders.

The Justice Department on Friday filed a plan to

reunify more than 2,500 children age 5 and older by a court-imposed deadline of July 26 using "truncated" procedures to verify parentage and perform background checks, which

exclude DNA testing and other steps it took to reunify children under 5.

The administration said the abbreviated vetting puts children at significant safety risk but is needed to meet the deadline.

Chris Meekins, deputy assistant Health and Human Services secretary for preparedness and response, filed a declaration that he is fully committed to meeting the deadline. However, he does not believe "the placing of children into such situations is consistent with the mission of HHS or my core values."

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw took umbrage at Meekins' statement, disputing the official's interpretation of his orders and saying that safe reunification could and will occur by July 26.

"It is clear from Mr. Meekins' declaration that HHS either does not understand the court's orders or is acting in defiance of them," the judge wrote late Friday. "At a minimum, it appears he is attempting to provide cover to defendants for their own conduct in the practice of family separation, and the lack of foresight and infrastructure necessary to remedy the harms caused by that practice." Sabraw, an appointee of President George W. Bush, said Meekins' statement calls into question his comments in court hours earlier that the administration was acting in good faith.

Sabraw said in court Friday that the administration had largely complied with orders but, at the same

time, he indicated he will be monitoring its actions ahead of the deadline.

The judge said the administration must provide a list of names of parents in immigration custody and their children by Monday and complete background checks for them by Thursday. He scheduled four hearings over the next two weeks for updates, including one on Monday.

"The task is laborious, but can be accomplished in the time and manner prescribed," he wrote in his order.

Evelyn Stauffer, a spokeswoman for Health and Human Services, said the administration proposed its plan "in the interests of transparency and cooperation" after concluding that the abbreviated vetting was necessary to make the deadline.

"Within the time the court allows, we will strive to implement the most comprehensive procedures possible to ensure child welfare," she said. "We look forward to continuing our close work with the court to accomplish the goals we share of safe, expeditious reunification." □

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Eighth animal dies after jaguar escapes Audubon Zoo habitat

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Eight animals have now died after a jaguar escaped from its habitat at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans.

NOLA.com reports an alpaca and fox died Sunday, the day after the male jaguar killed four alpacas, one emu and one fox Saturday morning. The jaguar was captured and returned to its night house after being sedated by a vet team.

No people were hurt and

the zoo was reopened Sunday.

The zoo acquired the alpacas in March from farms in Alabama and Mississippi. The alpaca that died overnight Sunday was the zoo's last living alpaca. One injured fox continues to be monitored.

It's not immediately clear how the animal escaped. Zoo officials say inspections found that the roof was "compromised," but initial findings concluded that keeper error was not a factor. □



The Audubon Zoo closed after a jaguar escaped from its habitat and killed six animals, according to a release from zoo officials, Saturday, July 14, 2018 in New Orleans. Associated Press

New Mexico passenger bus crash kills 3, injures 24 others

Associated Press

BERNALILLO, N.M. (AP) — A crash involving a commercial passenger bus and three other vehicles on a New Mexico highway early Sunday killed three people and injured 24 others, some critically, authorities said. One of the people killed was in a car that struck a pickup truck from behind around 2 a.m. Sunday on Interstate 25 just north of Bernalillo, about 18 miles (29 kilometers) north of Albuquerque, Sandoval County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Keith Elder said.

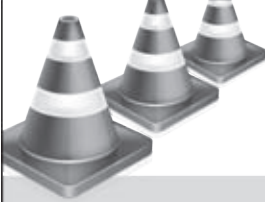
The bus driver took evasive action to avoid hitting the disabled car and its driver, who was ejected. But the bus driver lost control and the bus rolled onto its right side. It was then sideswiped by a semitruck, according to Elder.

Rio Rancho Fire Rescue said emergency crews had to extricate several people who were trapped in the bus using a tool that pries open parts of a vehicle. Photos show a mangled car that's almost entirely flattened and the bus on its


side. At least two of the injured were airlifted from the scene by medical helicopters. It wasn't immediately known whether the other two persons who died were bus passengers or were in one of the other vehicles involved.

Elder said the names of the three dead were being withheld until relatives could be notified.

Sheriff's officials said 35 people were on the bus operated by El Paso-Los Angeles Limousine Express. Its vehicles service cities in the Southwest and Mexico. Bus company president Jerry Rosenbaum said the bus had started from Denver and was en route to El Paso, Texas. According to Rosenbaum, two drivers were on the bus and they were among those hospitalized. Travelers who didn't require hospital treatment were placed on another bus. Rosenbaum said the company has cooperated with authorities and will help provide transportation for any passengers upon their release from the hospital. □







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May reveals Trump Brexit advice: Sue the EU, don't negotiate

By SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — In the midst of a messy political crisis at home over Britain's impending exit from the European Union, Prime Minister Theresa May revealed Sunday that Donald Trump gave her this piece of advice: Sue the EU, don't negotiate.

A bemused May turned him down. But the exchange was the latest example of the awkward dance between the U.S. and Britain, with the two leaders attempting to put on a public show of friendliness despite clear strains over trade, the EU and their approaches to diplomacy.

Trump told reporters on Friday that he had given May advice about how to deal with the EU that she found too "brutal." Asked in a BBC interview Sunday what that was, May responded with an amused expression: "He told me I should sue the EU. Not go into negotiation, sue them."

With a laugh, she added: "Actually, no. We're going into negotiations with them."

In the past few days, Trump's first official visit to Britain has been steered wildly off course by a series of humiliating remarks he has made about May's leadership — especially her handling of the tense Brexit negotiations.

In an explosive interview with The Sun newspaper published Thursday — just as May was hosting Trump at a lavish black-tie dinner — Trump said the British leader's approach likely "killed" chances of a free-trade deal with the United



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and U.S. President Donald Trump answer questions during a press conference in Buckinghamshire, England, Friday, July 13, 2018.

Associated Press

States. He said he had told May how to conduct Brexit negotiations, "but she didn't listen to me."

He also praised May's rival, Boris Johnson, who quit last week as foreign secretary to protest May's Brexit plans. Trump claimed Johnson would make a "great prime minister."

The comments shocked many in Britain — even May's opponents — and couldn't have come at a worse time for the British prime minister, who is facing a crisis over Brexit from within her own ranks. Her

Conservative government is deeply split between supporters of a clean break with the EU and those who want to keep close ties with the bloc, Britain's biggest trading partner.

The U.S. president later apologized and sought to soften the blow, telling reporters at a joint news conference Friday that May is an "incredible woman" who is "doing a fantastic job" as prime minister.

Asked to rate U.S.-U.K. relations, Trump called them the "highest level of special." He added it was up to

May how to handle Brexit, as long as the U.S. "can trade and we don't have any restrictions" on commerce with the United Kingdom.

On Sunday, May seemed to point to Trump's inconsistent advice when she said that as well as telling her to "sue" the EU, he also suggested not walking away from the negotiations.

May didn't elaborate, and it wasn't clear what grounds Britain would have to sue the EU, how it would work or to what purpose.

But Trump has made clear

his animosity toward the EU, aggressively criticizing his European NATO allies for taking advantage of the U.S. on trade and defense spending. In a CBS interview Saturday, he called the EU a trade "foe."

May's government has just published its long-awaited Brexit plans, which propose to keep Britain and the EU in a free market for goods, with a more distant relationship for services. That has infuriated fervent Brexit supporters, who see it as a bad deal. Along with Johnson, the man who had been leading the Brexit negotiations, David Davis, also quit in protest.

Ahead of a key week of Parliament votes on trade and customs policy, May warned party rebels on Sunday they should fall into line, saying wrecking her Brexit blueprint could result in disaster.

"We need to keep our eyes on the prize. If we don't, we risk ending up with no Brexit at all," she wrote in an article in the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

She acknowledged that some lawmakers had doubts about her plans to stick to a "common rule book" with the bloc for goods and agricultural products in return for free trade, without tariffs or border customs checks, but insisted she couldn't see a viable alternative.

Her appeal didn't convince prominent Conservative lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg, who accused May of only half-heartedly supporting Brexit. May, he contended, was "a Remainer who remains a Remainer."

□



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Food sent to migrants off Sicily as Italy awaits EU offers

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

ROME (AP) — Another day's worth of food and beverages was sent Sunday to a pair of military ships off Sicily as Italy waited for more European nations to pledge to take a share of the hundreds of migrants on board before allowing the asylum-seekers to step off onto Italian soil.

Germany, Spain and Portugal each agreed to accept 50 of the migrants, following similar offers by fellow European Union members France and Malta on Saturday, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said.

But the Czech Republic rebuffed the appeal, calling the distribution plan a "road to hell."

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has vowed to prohibit further disembarking in Italy of migrants who were rescued while crossing the Mediterranean Sea unless the burden is shared by other EU countries.

Salvini, who leads the right-wing League party in Italy's populist coalition government, told reporters Sunday the "aim was for brotherly re-distribution" of the 450 rescued passengers on the two military ships.

Conte contacted fellow EU nation leaders Saturday, asking them to take some of the rescued migrants. But Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis tweeted that his country "won't take any migrants," dismissing Italy's approach as a "road to hell" that would encourage more migrant smuggling.

While campaigning for Italy's March election, Salvini praised the hard-line



In this photo taken on Thursday, July 12, 2018, 67 migrants rescued at sea by the Vos Thalassa freighter disembark from the Italian Coast Guard ship Diciotti, southern Italy.

Associated Press

Finding takers for all of the asylum-seekers on the military ships waiting off Sicily, in the grips of a heat wave, could be a long process.

Baby food, milk and juice were among the provisions being delivered Sunday so the people aboard will have necessities for another 24 hours. A fishing boat, launched Friday from Libya by human traffickers and crowded with some 450 migrants, sailed to tiny Linosa island off Sicily, passing through both Libya's and Malta's search-and-rescue areas. □

stance on immigration taken by several eastern European countries, among them the Czech Republic. The same intransigence is being experienced by the Italian government.

Italy's Conte insisted the "solidarity" strategy was working, citing the offers from France, Malta and Germany.


"This is the solidarity and responsibility that we have always sought from Europe," the premier said on Facebook. He added that Italy would "continue on this path, with firmness and in respect of human rights."

More than 600,000 migrants were rescued in the central Mediterranean and brought to Italian territory in the last few years. Many were economic migrants ineligible for asylum. Since their home countries often don't facilitate repatriation, Italy has been left to shelter many of them, although thousands have slipped out of Italy to seek work or relatives in northern Europe.


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Eritrean, Ethiopian leaders call new peace example to Africa

By ELIAS MESERET

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

— Official rivals just weeks ago, the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea embraced warmly to the roar of a crowd of thousands Sunday at a concert celebrating the end of a long state of war.

A visibly moved Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, clasping his hands over his heart, addressed the crowd in Ethiopia's official language, Amharic, on his first visit to the country in 22 years.

"Hate, discrimination and conspiracy is now over," the 72-year-old Isaias said to cheers and people chanting his name. "Our focus from now on should be on developing and growing together. We are ready



Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki is welcomed by Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, at Addis Ababa International Airport, Ethiopia, Saturday, July 14, 2018.

Associated Press

to move forward with you as one. No one can steal the love we have regained

now. Now is the time to make up for the lost times." The Eritrean leader repeatedly praised the "able leadership" of Ethiopia's reformist new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who in his own speech thanked Isaias for his "courageous gesture" in accepting the offer of peace.

The concert highlighted the end of hostilities between the arch-foes in East Africa, who fought a bloody border war from 1998 to 2000 that killed tens of thousands and left families separated. The antagonism ended last month when Abiy announced that Ethiopia was fully accepting a peace deal originally signed in 2000 and Eritrea swiftly responded.

"The reconciliation we are forging now is an example to people across Africa and beyond," the 42-year-old Abiy said.

Jubilant Ethiopians, some of whom have compared the dramatic developments to the fall of the Berlin Wall, found themselves putting aside the World Cup final to watch live coverage of the concert.

Isaias arrived in Ethiopia on Saturday, reciprocating the Ethiopian leader's trip to Eritrea last weekend that led to the restoration of diplomatic, telephone and transport ties. He was greeted by Abiy in a red-carpet welcome, with people dancing at the airport and thousands of residents of the capital, Addis Ababa, lining the streets to see Isaias' motorcade.

Some chanted songs criticizing the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front, which was Ethiopian ruling coalition's strongest political party and hostile to Eritrea until Abiy came to power at the beginning of April and introduced a breathtaking series of political and economic reforms.

"Nothing can stop the ongoing reforms in Ethiopia," Abiy told the crowd Sunday. "But we need to protect the democratic rights we are regaining now."

The embrace of the peace deal, which hands key disputed border areas to Eritrea, was the boldest of the changes as Ethiopia moves away from years of anti-government protests

that demanded wider freedoms in Africa's second most populous country with more than 100 million people.

Now attention shifts to Eritrea, one of the world's most reclusive nations, which has been ruled by Isaias since it gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993. The state of war with Ethiopia kept the country of 5 million in a constant state of military readiness with a system of compulsory conscription that sent thousands of people fleeing the country toward Europe and elsewhere.

Eritrea also has faced years of U.N. sanctions over alleged support to extremists, which the government has denied, and Abiy already has called for them to be lifted.

The sight of the Eritrean leader speaking Amharic to reach out to Ethiopians surprised even his longtime acquaintances. "I have known him for more than 40 yrs. Never heard him speak Amharic," the Eritrean ambassador to Kenya and Tanzania, Beyene Russom, said on Twitter, describing the crowd's shouts of joy.

The United States and others have praised the end of the state of war between the countries as a welcome development for the strategic Horn of Africa region and beyond.

Ethiopia's leader has been quick to promote economic development as a shared goal of the new friendship, giving Isaias a tour of an industrial park and pursuing deals for his landlocked nation to use Eritrea's ports on the Red Sea along one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. The Eritrean leader's visit to Ethiopia continues Monday as Isaias is expected to re-open his country's embassy. □

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Politics guide Syrians backing Croatia in World Cup final

By **BASSEM MROUE**

AIN TERMA, Syria (AP) —

Syrian troops based in this town near the capital Damascus had their eyes glued to the TV set when France scored its third goal against Croatia in the World Cup final on Sunday. Four young men screamed in unison: "No!"

Most of the Syrian troops and residents of Ain Terma watched the World Cup's final match hoping that Croatia would win, but ultimately weren't granted their wish.

Most Syrians in areas controlled by the government harbor antipathy for France as many of them consider it part of a coalition opposed to President Bashar Assad. France is Syria's former colonial power and anti-French sentiments are usually high in the country. Many Syrian soap operas depicting that period usually show the

Syrian army soldiers, supporting the Croatia team watch soccer World Cup final match between France and Croatia in the Eastern Ghouta suburb of Damascus, Syria.

Associated Press

French as ruthless occupiers.

On the edge of Ain Terma, five members of the elite

Republican Guard units watched the match Sunday evening as they sipped cups of sweetened tea.

"We are for Croatia," said one of the men dressed in army fatigues. "Croatia is a small country, they have an

excellent team and they reached the final."

In town, people gathered around TVs in shops and homes watching the soccer, Syria's most popular sport.

Although many Syrians said that they were supporting Croatia for political reasons, butcher Fahd al-Qadi, 39, said he supports the European nation because of his love for the team's star midfielder, Luka Modric.

"I don't mix politics with soccer," said Qadi, standing behind his wooden cutting board while eyeing a small TV running on a generator because power is still cut from the town that was, until March, held by rebels for over five years.

When Russia was eliminated from the World Cup by Croatia last week, many Syrians around the world opposed to Assad celebrated Moscow's defeat. □

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Nicaraguan students reunite with families after attacks

Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — More than 200 Nicaraguan university students were reunited with their parents Saturday after a tense night of armed attacks that left two dead and dozens wounded. The students had sought refuge in a local church after police forced them out of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, which had been occupied during two months of protests against the government of President Daniel Ortega. "It was a really hard night. They discharged their entire heavy arsenal against stones and mortars," said a sobbing young man who declined to give his name out of fear. "They wanted



Students who had taken refuge at the Jesus of Divine Mercy church arrive on a bus to the Metropolitan cathedral, in Managua, Nicaragua, Saturday, July 14, 2018.

Associated Press

reported via Facebook Live. Students fearing for their lives sent farewell messages to friends and family. "I did it for the country and I don't regret it," a crying girl said in a video that went viral. "Forgive me mama, I love you."

The police have not issued official statements.

Two students were killed, Roman Catholic cardinal Leopoldo Brenes said.

On Saturday morning, Cardinal Brenes negotiated with the president's office for the safe transfer of students out of the church and to the Metropolitan cathedral, where representatives from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights were on hand. "We have said not one more death, and this keeps happening," Brenes said. "These two deaths hurt."

Tensions in Nicaragua erupted this spring after the government announced cuts to social security. The changes were quickly reversed, but students took to the streets and occupied the main university with a wider call for Ortega to step down.

The crisis has left around 270 dead and more than 2,000 wounded as forces loyal to the government crack down on opponents. □

to kill us all."

Father Raul Zamora said the students came under fire at the Jesus of Divine Mercy church for more than 12 hours. He said a journalist from The Washington Post and a journalist from the BBC exited the church safely earlier Saturday, along with some wounded students who needed urgent hospital care.

The police onslaught was televised by local media outlets and covered by three local journalists who

Haiti's prime minister resigns amid fuel price hike fallout

By EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ
EVENS SANON

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant resigned Saturday amid calls for him to step down over his handling of a failed plan to raise fuel prices that set off a wave of deadly protests.

Lafontant told Haiti's Chamber of Deputies that he sent President Jovenel Moise his resignation letter. Moise confirmed via Twitter that he had accepted Lafontant's resignation along with those of other Cabinet

members. The prime minister's abrupt resignation came ahead of a vote on a motion of censure Lafontant, a first step toward asking that Moise name a new prime minister to form a Cabinet to handle the crisis. The prime minister is the second highest official in Haiti after the president. Lafontant was to answer questions about the July 6-8 riots that followed the government's attempt to raise fuel prices by up to 51 percent as part of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. □



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40th anniversary of the Timeshare Industry in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — In honor of celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Timeshare Industry in Aruba, a report was commissioned by the Aruba Timeshare Association, ATSA, to provide an overview of the island's timeshare landscape from data collected in 2017. The report was commissioned in collaboration with Aruba Tourism Authority, ATA, and prepared by the University of Aruba, UA. The following is the fifth article in a series of six, summarizing the report.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The results of the study conducted in order to compile the report show that the timeshare visitor to Aruba is overall very satisfied with the product of the timeshare and with Aruba as a destination. In general, the respondents were older Americans that were split between male and female. The large majority of respondents were considered Baby Boomers (more than 90%), and approximately 70% of them earn more than \$90,000.

The majority of timeshare respondents owned their timeshare (77.8%) and the majority of people purchased their timeshare before 2003 (46.1%) and had visited the island of Aruba more than 10 times (68.1%). These respondents typically had one week of timeshare (46.5%), and the majority paid less than \$15,000 for that week. The maintenance fees for one week of timeshare ownership averaged \$1,000 and there were additional fees for the majority of timeshare respondents that averaged \$753 over two years.

Most people did not trade or exchange their timeshare from Aruba and the primary reasons that they bought in Aruba were that they believed Aruba was a quality destination, the overall resort experience

was outstanding, and the resort environment and atmosphere were great. The commitment that the respondents had for their timeshare resort was very notable. The large majority of the timeshare respondents were extremely (56.2%) and very satisfied (33.4%) with their most recent timeshare purchase.

An interesting finding was that in terms of the importance of sales and marketing factors in the final decision to purchase timeshare in Aruba, the highest rated items were previous hotel visits on Aruba and direct contact with the resort representatives, but the lowest rated items were travel agents, television ads, and previous cruise visits to Aruba. One suggestion could be to target cruise passengers with a tour/activity package when they leave the cruise ship to show them the value of the timeshare resort on the beautiful island of Aruba. Since cruise passengers get such little time in Aruba, creating a unique adventure for them could encourage them to purchase or trade to Aruba.

With regard to satisfaction with their most recent purchase of timeshare, more than 75% of respondents are extremely or very satisfied. Less than 1% of the respondents were very or extremely dissatisfied with their timeshare purchase. Spending and economic impact are two positive factors related to the timeshare industry as revealed in the current study. The overall timeshare group spending (average of 3.25 people) for the entire trip on average was \$3,723.56 without any maintenance or other timeshare fees included, it is \$4,723.56 per group with maintenance fees in the total spend. The largest areas of spend from the respondents was

in food and beverage, as the combined food and beverage expenses (inside and outside the resort) was \$399.46 per person or

the current study was more than \$1,422 each. In comparing 2008 to 2017, there was approximately \$4,419 spent per group per vaca-

very good. The gross economic value of the Aruban timeshare industry in 2017 is conservatively projected at an estimated US\$ 530



\$1,298.25 per group, per trip to Aruba. The amount spent on gambling was \$217.26 per person, and shopping was \$124.13 per person per trip. Overall, the spend by the average individual staying in a timeshare on Aruba from

tion in 2008, and \$4,724 in 2017. (Not included in the study - lodging, Aruban goods and products, jewelry and high brand name products) The economic impact from the timeshare owners to the island of Aruba was

million. This is equivalent to an estimated one-third of gross tourism earnings, and almost 20 percent of nominal GDP projected for 2017; the equivalent of one-fifth of the Aruban gross domestic production.

Continued on Page 14

ARTS AND CRAFTS BY LOCAL DESIGNERS

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Continued from Page 13
 It was however noted that the timeshare industry product needs to be updated to adequately deal with the current younger global timeshare owner. The product has successfully existed in Aruba for more than 40 years and looking forward, it should focus on maintaining the annual fees as they

are while improving value for the money.

Overall, respondents were very satisfied with their most recent timeshare usage showing that more than 86% of respondents were extremely or very satisfied with their most recent visit. Most of their expectations were met with

climate, warmth and kindness of people, and quality of beaches as rated the highest in terms of exceeding expectations of quality. The lowest items were land and sea activities, transport and traffic, sightseeing tours, and nightlife and entertainment which could be reflective of the age of the respondents.

In relation to demographics in the study and the differences found, the results show that older respondents have stronger return intentions, but their overall satisfaction and the perception of the timeshare experience is lower than younger respondents. This may be due to how of-

ten that they have been to Aruba and the possible boredom or monotony that they may have with the options provided to them once they have reached a certain age.

Higher income respondents have more positive feelings about Aruba and the timeshare experience, but this may be because they are able to afford new and exciting experiences. For example, new restaurants, more gambling and shopping.

Regarding spending data, males spend more money than females in all categories except for gambling where there are no significant differences. Younger respondents spend more money on watersports, which could be related to their ability to participate in these activities more readily, and overall, higher income respondents spent more money than respondents with lower income, which should be expected.

Researchers found similar overall results in surveys of primarily U.S. timeshare owners, Venezuelans, and people from other locations such as Canada and the UK. The studies were anonymous and did not reveal the name of the timeshare Resort where respondents were staying. □

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EAGLE BEACH — Recently Emely Ridderstaat from Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring Mr. Thomas Keller & Mrs. Christine Arnot as "Distinguished Visitor" with

15 consecutive years coming to Aruba and Mr. Cooper Campbell as "Goodwill Ambassador" with 20 consecutive years coming to Aruba. They love the island mainly for the safety

and the people of Aruba. Mr. Francis Ridderstap and also staff of the Divi Tamarijn was also present on this honoring. □





Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

Best Face Forward

The expression, "You only get one chance to make a first impression." is one that's very significant in the hotel business and especially timeshare resorts. The first impression the guest has could be the difference between a repeat guest who eventually becomes an owner and someone who never wants to come back. Obviously all staff is important in the overall guest experience, but while housekeeping is the backbone of the resort, the front desk staff are the face. It is their job to greet the guests when they first arrive and provide them a warm welcome and any necessary information this first time guest may need.

The job of front office agents is not an easy one, no matter what type of hotel you work in, while those of us in the back office can take off the mask of our hospitality face and spend the day glowering at our computers, the same luxury is not afforded to the front desk agents. It isn't a job for everyone as it requires a great deal of patience, creativity, problem solving, a sense of urgency and most importantly empathy.

Front desk agents are required to have a certain level of calm and grounding about them in order to reassure a guest that no matter what chaos is going on around them they are not to be shaken, it is just another day at the office. People working the front desk are often subject to a lot of client frustration when things aren't going right and the way the agent responds to the guest can be the deciding factor for that guest on if they will return to the resort or take their business elsewhere.

Various examples of these types of employees can be drawn on here, from the most extreme cases such as those who remained at their post during natural disasters such as last year's hurricane season which hit various tourism driven Islands or nuclear bomb threats such as what happened in Hawaii. But there are also less extreme examples where a front desk agent may just have followed up with a guest about a concern they had and that makes all the difference for the customer and their experience.

The need for a hotel to put their best face forward makes filling front desk vacancies so difficult, as it requires finding people who exemplify the traits mentioned above. Dynamic people, who will love their job even at the end of a tough day and continue to strive for growth and improvement. Usually those who have worked in other customer service positions think they may be a good fit as the goals of creating repeat customers is the same, but they often forget that the requirements of a guest you see every day for a week and the variables involved in their experience are vastly different than making them a cup of coffee just the way they like it. The job requires a realization that being a front desk agent means you are the face of a larger team both in front and behind the scenes all working cohesively to elevate the customer experience.□



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

Donation 'Round of Aruba' for new foundation

SAVANETA – May 18th and 19th the department of sports at the Dutch marines barracks in Savaneta organized the 26th 'Round of Aruba' which is the biggest sport event on the island. The event enhances a 72 kilometer running competition that can be completed individually, in duo's or with a team of four. The benefits of this event are donated to a good cause and this year the merit went to the Foundation Friends of the Sport Centre San Nicolas,

President of the foundation, Shaira Laclé, recently received the donation out of hands of the organizers of the event, Sym and Sebastiaan. Treasurer Rayron Thiel and Secretary Paul Vlaar were present too. The donated amount was 2.500 florin. The foundation's goal is to help underprivileged children in san Nicolas and surroundings to be able to participate in sports. The extra activities and support that the sport center itself cannot offer are supplemented by the aid of the foundation. Laclé explains: "We are aiming for the Sport Centre to be the heart of the neighborhood, focusing on sports, exercise and coaching. Our foundation wishes to support the Sport Centre to achieve this goal. With this extra help from the marines we can help more underprivileged children to experience what sport can bring you: joy, discipline, health, friendship and social behavior. We say: the youth is our future."

The first Ronde van Aruba (70 KM) was completed by 2 marines in 1971, Dick Passchier (8:54) and Piet de Vries (9:16). At that time, this was an excellent ultra-marathon performance, unrivaled in the Caribbean region. The participant or team must complete the course within 9 hours nowadays. □



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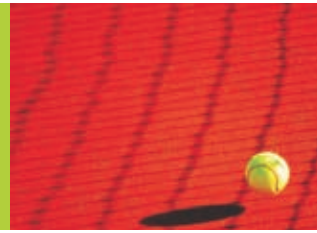
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Out of hands of chef sport Sym president of the foundation Shaira Laclé receives the donation.



SPORTS



Baltimore Orioles' Manny Machado and Caleb Joseph score against the Texas Rangers in the third inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 15, 2018, in Baltimore.
Associated Press

Machado homers as Orioles beat Rangers 6-5

Associated Press
BALTIMORE (AP) — Manny Machado homered before making an early exit, Adam Jones hit a three-run double and the Baltimore Orioles rallied past the Texas Rangers 6-5 Sunday. Machado was removed in the fifth inning by manager Buck Showalter after a 26-minute rain delay, taking the All-Star shortstop off a sloppy field. The last-place Orioles are entertaining offers for Machado, who is expected to be dealt before the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline. After being replaced by Jace Peterson, Machado sat in the dugout, wearing a sweatshirt and joking with his teammates. In a matchup between two teams staggering into the All-Star break, Texas got a first-inning grand slam from rookie Ronald Guzman but quickly gave the lead away in losing for the seventh time in nine games. Machado ignited the comeback with his 24th homer, and Jones' bases-clearing double in the third off Mike Minor (6-6) put Baltimore ahead to stay.

Continued on Page 19

Les Bleus à La Attack



France wins Fifa World Cup for second time

France Hugo Lloris holds the trophy aloft after the final match between France and Croatia at the 2018 soccer World Cup in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, July 15, 2018.

MANNY MACHADO

Continued From Page 18
Tanner Scott (1-1) earned his first big league win. Zach Britton worked the ninth for his fourth save.

TIGERS 6, ASTROS 3

HOUSTON (AP) — John Hicks hit one of Detroit's four home runs off Justin Verlander, and the Tigers snapped a six-game losing streak.

Verlander (9-5) struck out 12 in six innings in his first start against his former team. But he allowed a season-high six runs while dropping his third straight decision.

The 35-year-old Verlander earned 183 wins in 13 seasons with the Tigers. He was traded to Houston last year. Jeimer Candelario, Niko Goodrum and Jim Adduci also homered for Detroit. Drew VerHagen (1-2) got the win. Yuli Gurriel scored two runs and hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth for the Astros. The defending World Series champions head into the All-Star break at 64-35.

CARDINALS 6, REDS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Matt Carpenter and Dexter Fowler homered for St. Louis, making interim manager Mike Shildt a winner in his first game.

Shildt took over for Mike Matheny, who was fired late Saturday after six-plus seasons at the helm.

John Gant (3-3) picked up the win with four hitless innings. Jordan Hicks got three outs for his second save. Cincinnati had won four of five. It is 35-26 since beginning the season 8-27. Reds right-hander Anthony DeSclafani (4-2) was tagged for six runs in 3 1/3 innings.

RED SOX 5, BLUE JAYS 2

BOSTON (AP) — Xander Bogaerts homered in his first at-bat a day after hitting a game-ending grand slam, and the Red Sox entered the All-Star break with their best record since 1949.

Bogaerts and Brock Holt each drove in two runs for the major league-leading Red Sox (68-30), who have won 12 of their last 13 games.

Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run homer for the Blue Jays (43-52). Toronto has dropped seven of 10.

Brandon Workman (2-0) got the win and All-Star closer



Texas Rangers' Roughned Odor slides into second after being tagged out by Baltimore Orioles' Tim Beckham in the seventh inning, Sunday, July 15, 2018, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 30th save.

Toronto right-hander Marcus Stroman (2-7) was charged with four runs, three earned, and five hits in five innings.

INDIANS 5, YANKEES 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Michael Brantley homered leading off the eighth inning, and the Indians beat the Yankees for a split of their four-game series.

One of six Cleveland players who will be in Washington for Tuesday's All-Star Game, Brantley broke a 2-2 tie by belting a pitch from Chad Green (5-2) into the seats in right for his 12th homer. The Indians added two more runs in the inning on a sacrifice fly by Yan Gomes and Green's wild pitch.

Carlos Carrasco (11-5) earned his first win in relief since July 19, 2014. Cody Allen worked the ninth for his 20th save.

Neil Walker homered for the Yankees, who enter the break 29 games over .500 and have the majors' second-best record.

PIRATES 7, BREWERS 6, 10 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Josh Bell hit a two-run double in the 10th inning, giving Pittsburgh a five-game sweep of Milwaukee and its sixth straight win overall.

With rain falling, Gregory Polanco and Colin Moran singled to put runners on the corners for Bell, who

drove a pitch from Dan Jennings (3-3) into the gap in right-center. The relay

throw beat Moran home but trickled through the legs of catcher Erik Kratz.



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Young, joyful France beats Croatia 4-2 to win 2nd World Cup

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Taking turns sliding across the rain-soaked turf holding the World Cup trophy tight, teenager Kylian Mbappe and the rest of France's players acted like the youthful bunch they are.

Nothing, not a Pussy Riot protest nor a postgame downpour that soaked Russian President Vladimir Putin, was going to stop the party.

It carried on long after a thrilling 4-2 win over Croatia on Sunday. In the locker room with French President Emmanuel Macron striking poses with players, then a champagne-spraying, water-splashing interruption of the coach Didier Deschamps' news conference. "Sorry! They're young and they're happy," said Deschamps, like a proud father.

Deschamps had good reason to indulge them. His team is mostly aged 25 or under and can return almost intact to defend their title in 2022 in Qatar.

"Our children are going to



France's Benjamin Mendy celebrates with the trophy after the final match between France and Croatia at the 2018 soccer World Cup in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, July 15, 2018.

Associated Press

be very proud," forward Antoine Griezmann said. "The World Cup, it's a lot."

The 19-year-old Mbappe became only the second teen after Pele to score in a World Cup final.

Mbappe had just shown his electrifying speed in the 52nd minute when play was held up by four pro-

testers who ran onto the field. Russian punk band Pussy Riot later took credit for the incident — watched from the VIP seats by Putin, whose government once jailed members of the activist group. Charges were filed against the group Sunday, too.

Putin was later on the field

to award medals to the players in a ceremony soon drenched in rain and joy. As thunder pealed and lightning cracked, FIFA president Gianni Infantino handed France captain Hugo Lloris the gold World Cup trophy.

Gold confetti stuck to the soaked Les Bleus as they paraded the trophy around the Luzhniki Stadium, a final act of an enthralling tournament in which Croatia reached its first final while powers Brazil, Germany and Argentina went home early.

About 12 minutes after a protester gave Mbappe a double high-five on the field, Mbappe sent a right-footed shot from 25 yards (meters) past goalkeeper Danijel Subasic. The goal put France up 4-1, closing the door on Croatia who had been the better team until Mbappe took control. The only other teen to score in a World Cup final was Pele, who was 17 when Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 in 1958. Mbappe, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain in the French league, was born months after France won its only other World Cup title in 1998.

"I have a whole story to write," Mbappe said. "This is just the beginning." Paul Pogba and Griezmann, France's two other key creative players, also

scored. Pogba played a disciplined role in Russia, but his natural joy was evident celebrating his 18-yard (meter) shot, and leading the champagne shower for Deschamps.

But it was Mbappe who put the match out of reach with a furious passage of play in the second half. In the 59th, a run from Mbappe started a play that ended up with Pogba on the edge of the penalty area. With his second attempt, the midfielder curled his shot beyond Subasic.

Griezmann scored from the penalty spot in the 38th minute fully four minutes after his corner kick was knocked out of play by Ivan Perisic's arm. The referee ruled it handball only after a video review, just as the first thunders claps boomed around the stadium.

"In a World Cup final, you do not give such a penalty," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said.

France took the lead in the 18th when Croatia's tallest outfield player, 1.90-meter (6-foot-3) forward Mario Mandzukic, rose to meet Griezmann's free kick with the top of his head. He deflected it past his own goalkeeper.

Perisic and Mandzukic both scored for Croatia, first to equalize in the 28th minute and later as a consolation goal in the 69th, embarrassing Lloris with a flicked shot as the France goalkeeper tried to dribble the ball out of his goalmouth.

But the three-goal lead was too much for the red-and-white-checkered squad that made a habit of coming back at the World Cup — and played three straight 120-minute games before the final.

"We were dominant, we had control," Dalic said through a translator. "What we've had in terms of luck over the tournament, we lacked that today."

Deschamps became only the third man to win the World Cup as a player and a coach. He joined Mario Zagallo of Brazil and Franz Beckenbauer, who captained West Germany. □

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No doubt: Djokovic wins 4th Wimbledon, 1st Slam in 2 years

By HOWARD FENDRICH

LONDON (AP) — Novak Djokovic acknowledged that he was worried. His coach was, too.

Could Djokovic ever return to the top of tennis? To the heights he'd already reached? Could he put aside the time lost to a painful right elbow that required surgery and the disappointment of poor-for-him results? Could he end a Grand Slam drought that lasted more than two years?

All of that fretting seemed misplaced Sunday night. Back at his best, Djokovic became Wimbledon's champion for the fourth time, grabbing a lead right away against a weary Kevin Anderson in the final and holding off a late challenge to win 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (3). "There were several moments where I was frustrated and questioning whether I can get back (to the) desired level or not. But that makes this whole journey even more special for me," Djokovic said.

"It's easy to talk now and look back at it and be kind of grateful, but I really am grateful to go through this kind of, so to say, mixed emotions, turbulences as well, mentally, moments of doubt and disappointment and frustration, anger."

It is Djokovic's 13th major trophy, the fourth-highest total in the history of men's tennis, trailing only Roger Federer's 20, Rafael Nadal's 17 and his childhood idol Pete Sampras' 14.

But it's also Djokovic's first since he completed a career Grand Slam at the 2016 French Open.

"It was a long journey," the 31-year-old from Serbia said. "I couldn't pick a better place, to be honest, in the tennis world to peak and to make a comeback." A year ago at the All England Club, Djokovic quit during his quarterfinal because of the elbow, then took the rest of 2017 off.

After the operation in February, Djokovic's results were mediocre. He realized later he tried to come back too soon.

"I really was impatient," he



Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Kevin Anderson, during the men's singles final match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Sunday July 15, 2018.

Associated Press

says now.

In April, he reunited with Marian Vajda, the man who had coached Djokovic for years before Boris Becker and Andre Agassi did.

"I always had doubt," Vajda said. "I was thinking really negative."

They built "the new Novak," as Vajda explained it. Retooled his serve. Made adjustments to other strokes.

Still, Djokovic was so dispirited by his upset loss at the French Open last month that he vowed, in the heat of the moment, to skip the grass-court circuit.

Good thing he didn't stick to that.

Because he fell out of the top 20 for the first time in more than a decade, the No. 21 Djokovic is the lowest-ranked Wimbledon titlist since Goran Ivanisevic in 2001.

On Sunday, under a pale blue sky interrupted by only the occasional soft white puff of cloud, Djokovic looked far more like a guy who used to be No. 1.

"The first two sets," said Anderson, who played college tennis at the University of Illinois, "Novak beat up on me pretty bad."

Anderson could be excused for exhaustion. His semifinal was the second-longest Grand Slam match in history, lasting more than 6½ hours until he edged John Isner 26-24 in the fifth set. And that followed another extended fifth set in his 13-11 upset of eight-time champion Federer in the quarterfinals.

Anderson also blamed some nerves.

This was, after all, the 22nd Grand Slam final for Djokovic, and the second for Anderson, the runner-up at last year's U.S. Open and aiming to become the first South African man to win Wimbledon.

He was so out of sorts, his strokes so off-the-mark, that Djokovic gathered eight of the first 10 games even though he only conjured up two winners. No need for more, because Anderson gifted him 15 unforced errors in that span.

"I didn't really find my form the way I wanted to," said Anderson, whose right elbow was massaged by a trainer after the first set. "Of course, my body didn't feel great."

It was so lopsided for the first hour-plus that spectators began pulling for Anderson, likely in the hopes of getting more tennis for their tickets, which carried a face value of 210 pounds (about \$275).

Somehow, Anderson raised his game late and nearly managed to extend the match, five times standing just a point away from forcing a fourth set.

Djokovic held steady on each one, then was as superior in the tiebreaker as he was most of the afternoon.

"You can definitely see the improvements he's made since coming back from injury," Anderson said.

By the end, Djokovic's new serve had saved all seven break points he faced. His groundstrokes were a big reason he only made 13 unforced errors, while An-

derson had 32.

When Anderson pushed a forehand return into the net to end it, Djokovic exhaled. After they shook hands, Djokovic performed his personal ritual of bending down to grab a couple of blades of grass and plopping them in his mouth, savoring the triumph.

He did the same after his Wimbledon titles in 2011, 2014 and 2015. One key difference on this day was the presence of two special guests: The doctor who performed the elbow surgery and Djokovic's 3-year-old son, Stefan, who was in the stands for the trophy presentation.

Later, they met in a hallway, and Djokovic knelt down to hug his child.

"It feels amazing," Djokovic said, "because for the first time in my life, I have someone screaming 'Daddy! Daddy!'"

As much as Djokovic is known for his body-bending defense and unerring reads on opponents' serves, he's also someone who fills his matches with histrionics and exaggerated reactions, whether violently smacking the side of his shoe with his racket — as he did against Nadal in their thrilling five-set semifinal that began Friday and ended Saturday — or tearing off his shirt to celebrate a victory.

This day was no different. Angered by fans making noise during points, he told the chair umpire to tell them to shut up, throwing a colorful word into the demand. He pointed to his ear after winning one point, as if to say: "Who are you cheering for now?!" He blew a kiss toward the stands after another.

But when he broke Anderson for the second time in three service games at the outset, Djokovic simply shook a clenched fist while calmly looking at his guest box above the scoreboard. The bright yellow digits on there showed that Djokovic already led 4-1 after all of 18 minutes.

Might as well have declared him the champion, right then and there. □

Stone wins Scottish Open, misses 1st 59 on European Tour

By STEVE DOUGLAS

Associated Press

GULLANE, Scotland (AP)

— Brandon Stone sank to his haunches, clasped his face and dropped his putter in despair after coming within inches of being the first player to shoot a round of 59 on the European Tour. It wasn't all bad for the South African golfer.

Stone's 10-under 60 secured a four-shot victory at the Scottish Open on Sunday, earning him a third professional title of his career — the first outside his native country — and the bonus prize of a qualifying spot in next week's British Open just up the east coast at Carnoustie.

He left the Gullane links with a slight sense of regret, though.

Stone's approach to the 18th green skipped on and came to rest about 8 feet from the hole. As he walked up to the green, he looked at a scoreboard for the first time all day, totted up the birdies — and eagle — that he'd made and then looked at his caddy, Teagan Moore.



South Africa's Brandon Stone reacts after his putt for a 59 on the 18th came up just short during day four of the Scottish Open in East Lothian, Scotland, Sunday, July 15, 2018.

Associated Press

"He went, 'Yeah, we've got a shot at a 59,'" Stone said. He let his caddy read the line — "This is completely up to you," Stone told him — and the putt looked like it was going to roll into the cup, only for it to curl just left.

Stone slumped almost to his

knees, put both hands to his face, then stared at the ball for some time.

"I rolled it over his mark," Stone said of his caddy, "but he did criticize my pace so he is probably right. Didn't hold its line, but we'll take it."

That elusive sub-60 round in

46 years of European Tour play will have to wait for another tournament. It was officially the 19th round of 60 on the tour — 18 players have achieved the feat, with Darren Clarke doing so twice.

There have officially been nine sub-60 rounds on the

PGA Tour, with one of them being a 58 — by Jim Furyk at the Travelers Championship in 2016.

For the No. 371-ranked Stone, it was a return to form after a disappointing season. He had missed the cut at nine of his previous 16 events and recorded only two finishes inside the top 60 in 20 starts since October.

His previous wins both came in South Africa, at the BMW SA Open in 2016 and Alfred Dunhill Championship in 2017.

"When that thing went home, the emotions came flooding," said the 25-year-old Stone, who described his golf this week as "monumental."

"I had to really struggle to keep it in. It's been a long 18-month journey making a few changes, but the swing felt incredible today, the putting even better and the mental state was flawless.

"A day when you shoot 60 and win the Scottish Open is something I'm going to hold dear to my heart for a very long time." □

Pacquiao wins 60th career fight with seventh-round knockout



Manny Pacquiao fights Lucas Matthisse during their WBA World welterweight title bout in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sunday, July 15, 2018.

Associated Press

By EILEEN NG

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) — Manny Pacquiao won by knockout for the first time in nine years to claim the World Boxing Association welterweight title, and made a proclamation. "This is it. I am back in boxing," the 39-year-old Pacquiao said after his seventh-round knockout of Lu-

cas Matthisse on Sunday. "I am not done. I'm still there." It was Pacquiao's first bout since a contentious loss last year to Jeff Horn in Australia, and since parting ways with longtime trainer Freddie Roach to work with Buboy Fernandez.

"It's just a matter of time. You have to rest and get it back and that's what I did."

Pacquiao (60-7-2, 39 KOs) knocked Matthisse down onto one knee in the third and fifth rounds. He knocked the Argentine down again in the seventh, and Matthisse spat out his mouthpiece, causing a frenzy among Pacquiao fans in the stadium.

"I am not boasting but ... I think he's hurting from my punches," said Pacquiao, who hadn't won by knockout since 2009. "Every punch that I throw, he's hurt. I think he's scared of my punches."

Matthisse, who won 36 out of 39 matches by knockout, said Pacquiao was a "great fighter, a great legend," adding that he planned to take a break.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad attended the fight, the biggest in the country since the 1975 heavyweight clash between Mu-

hammad Ali and Australian Joe Bugner.

"I would like to congratulate Senator Manny Pacquiao for giving us pride and bringing the Filipino nation together once more," said Duterte, who flew to Malaysia for the bout ahead of an official visit.

Duterte said in a statement that Pacquiao has proven himself again as "one of the greatest boxers of all time" and that the win will cement his legacy in the sport. Scores of screaming Filipino fans in the stadium waved flags and chanted "Manny, Manny" throughout the match. Pacquiao's rise to fame from an impoverished rural childhood to become one of the world's wealthiest sportsmen over his 23-year career has made him a national hero. Pacquiao said he will return to his work as a senator for now but won't be hanging up the gloves just yet.

"I am addicted to boxing. I really love to fight and bring honor to my country," he said. "That's my heart's desire."

Horn, who lost his WBO welterweight title to Terence Crawford in Las Vegas last month, was quick to respond to Pacquiao's victory. "Congratulations Manny Pacquiao," Horn posted on Instagram. "Rematch?"

In the other title fights, Filipino Jhock Tepora had a knockout win over Edivaldo Oretga of Mexico for the interim WBA featherweight title. Venezuela's Carlos Canizales defended his WBA world light flyweight title against China's Lu Bin, who had been aiming to become the first boxer to win a major world title in just two career fights. South African Moruti Mthalane got a unanimous decision against Pakistan's Muhammad Waseem to capture the IBF flyweight title. □

Degenkolb masters cobblestones as Porte crashes out of Tour

By ANDREW DAMPF

ROUBAIX, France (AP) —

Richie Porte sat on the pavement grasping his right shoulder and grimacing in pain. A fan helped Chris Froome get going after he tumbled onto grass lining the road. Romain Bardet recovered from three punctured tires.

And they were only the highest-profile riders to face mishaps in the action-packed cobblestoned Stage 9 of the Tour de France on Sunday.

Every cyclist who reached the finish was covered in dust — many with their jerseys torn to shreds from crashes.

Spanish rider Gorka Izagirre had the unusual experience of his rear wheel buckling to the point that it looked like something out of a scrap heap.

John Degenkolb won a three-man sprint to take victory in a memorable stage, while overall contender Porte crashed out of the race.

Yellow-jersey holder Greg Van Avermaet crossed second and increased his overall lead to 43 seconds ahead of Geraint Thomas, a teammate of Froome's at Sky. Yves Lampaert of Quick-Step finished third.

"It was a pretty hectic day," Van Avermaet said after the dust settled.

Added Thomas, "It was just hard all day from kilometer zero. You've got to be in the right position but you also need the luck because it's easy to puncture or get caught up in something." Froome, the four-time champion, crossed in the main pack, 27 seconds behind, overcoming a crash with 45 kilometers (28 miles) to go that saw him go over the top of teammate Gianni Moscon.

"I'm relieved to get through today and looking forward to getting into the mountains now where the real race for GC (general classification) will start," Froome said.

Froome moved up to eighth overall, 1:42 behind Van Avermaet, who is not a threat in the mountains.

Porte, the BMC team



Germany's John Degenkolb celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the ninth stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Roubaix, France, Sunday, July 15, 2018.

Associated Press

leader, crashed out of the Tour 10 kilometers into the 156.5-kilometer (97-mile) leg — before any of the 15 cobblestone sections. He was later diagnosed with a fractured right clavicle. Porte also crashed out of last year's Tour in the ninth stage, on a mountain descent.

"It won't be easy for him to get back in his mind," teammate Van Avermaet said. "The good thing is that his crash is not as bad as last year so he will recover faster."

Rigoberto Uran, last year's runner-up, and Mikel Landa, one of three leaders of the Movistar team, also each crashed and lost time.

Bardet, the French hope who finished on the podium

the last two years, finished only seven seconds behind the main pack despite having to be paced back to the peloton three times.

Among the favorites in the overall standings apart from Froome: Alejandro Valverde is fifth (1:31 behind); Rafal Majka sixth (1:32); Jakob Fuglsang seventh (1:33); Adam Yates ninth (1:42); Landa 10th (1:42); Vincenzo Nibali 12th (1:48); Tom Dumoulin 15th (2:03); and Bardet 17th (2:32).

It was the first career victory at the Tour for Degenkolb, who rides for the Trek-Segafredo team. The German rider won the Paris-Roubaix single-day classic, which covers much of the same course, in 2015.

Degenkolb was the victim

Paris-Roubaix this year and injured his knee.

"You start doubting if you can still do it," Degenkolb said. "That is the hardest part to don't lose the trust in yourself and that you can still be up there. I am so happy that my wife and my family gave me the strength to do this to give it 100 percent and work hard. It is amazing."

Degenkolb became the third rider to win both Paris-Roubaix and a cobbled stage at the Tour after Roger De Vlaeminck and Bernard Hinault. His average speed over the stage was 45.9 kph overall and 39.8 kph on the cobbles.

The route starting in Arras contained the highest number of cobblestone sections since the 1980 Tour, with nearly 22 kilometers altogether.

While it wasn't rainy and muddy like in April for the Paris-Roubaix race, the heat and sun made it dry and dusty.

Others who crashed included: Dylan Groenewegen, the Dutch rider who won the previous two stages; Froome's Sky teammates Egan Bernal and Michal Kwiatkowski; American hope Tejay van Garderen and Italian sprinter Sonny Colbrelli.

After the first rest day Monday, the Tour resumes in the Alps on Tuesday with a 158.5-kilometer (98.5-mile) leg from Annecy to Le Grand-Bornand featuring four serious climbs. □



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Formula E paves way for electric cars on and off racetrack

By TERRIN WAACK

NEW YORK (AP) — Unplug and go. Filling up a car is as simple as that, even if it's not gas flowing through the nozzle. Electricity is efficient.

Formula E, a global electric auto racing series, steers the way — toward the future of not only its sport but also its industry.

"You don't realize it," Mahindra Racing team principal Dilbagh Gill said, "but the second car from today that you're going to buy is going to be an electric car."

America is one of Formula E's biggest targets. So, for the second consecutive time since the series' inception in 2014, Formula E took on the Brooklyn streets for a season-finale doubleheader of its 12-race schedule.

The track length is 2.373 kilometers with Lower Manhattan in the backdrop as well as the Statue of Liberty. Techeetah's Jean-Eric Vergne became the fourth

different driver to win the championship and Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler took home the overall team title. Confetti at the finish line marked the end of an era. In January, Formula E unveiled its new Gen2 car for next season. The current cars have a maximum power of 200kW, limited to 180kW during races, and they top out at 225 kph (140 mph). This model has been around since the se-



The Panasonic Jaguar Racing team charges driver car before the first of two auto races in the Formula E championship, Saturday, July 14, 2018, in Brooklyn, New York.

Associated Press

ries started and requires a mid-race car change because the battery runs out. The Gen2 car will run faster and longer. No more swaps. Performance has basically been doubled in just four years without changing the battery's fundamental chemistry.

"I don't know if you remember before Formula E started, there was this whole perception that lithium batteries were a little bit

dangerous — they were prohibited on airplanes, they caught fire on mobile phones," Panasonic Jaguar Racing sporting manager Gary Ekerold said. "Since we've run Formula E ... absolutely fine. Batteries are proven to be safe."

But they're still monitored. A dielectric — non-conductor — fluid in the battery keeps it cool while the car runs. There's also a battery management system that

constantly records data, monitoring temperature and voltage.

When the car is charging, dry-ice blowers — Super Chillers — connect to the car and prevent overheating.

It takes less than an hour to recharge a drained battery.

"It's going to start reaching a stage where the time it takes to fill up your gas — 4 minutes and 40 seconds on

average — is going to be the time it takes to charge your car," Gill said.

Teams are given identical batteries. The chassis, or bodies, of the cars are also the same. Where teams can get creative are places such as the electric motor, inverter, powertrain and gearbox. Manufacturers get involved here.

Everyday car names occupy pit lane. Audi and Jaguar already have teams. Nissan and BMW will next season. Mercedes-Benz and Porsche are joining for season six.

"This is like a playground for them," Mahindra Racing driver Felix Rosenqvist said. "When you get to the competitive side, you can always find new ways that maybe you wouldn't do on a normal car. You push the software and hardware."

The steering wheel, which has a programmable screen, is also fair game.

Things can get technical when the car gets broken down into specific parts and technology is thrown into the mix. But the basics remain: Energy is how far. Power is how fast.

"It's still a racing car," Panasonic Jaguar Racing driver Mitch Evans said. "It looks like a racing car. It drives like a racing car."

It just doesn't sound like the normal racing car. The roar of a combustion engine is missing. □

Microsoft raises alarms about face recognition

Associated Press

REDMOND, Wash. (AP) — Microsoft is calling on Congress to regulate the use of facial recognition technology to protect people's privacy and freedom of expression.

It's the first big tech company to raise serious alarms about an increasingly sought-after technology for recognizing a person's face from a photo or through a camera.

Microsoft President Brad

Smith said in a blog post Friday that the government should form a bipartisan expert commission.

Smith says Microsoft, which supplies face recognition to some businesses, has already rejected some cus-

tomers' requests to deploy the technology in situations involving "human rights risks."

A Microsoft spokeswoman declined to provide more details about what opportunities the company has

passed over because of ethical concerns.

Smith defended the company's contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, saying it doesn't involve face recognition. □

5 years after declaring bankruptcy, Detroit reborn at a cost

By COREY WILLIAMS

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — It's been five years since Detroit bot-tomed out after decades of decline, admitting in the largest U.S. municipal bank-ruptcy filing ever that the country's one-time indus-trial engine could no longer pay its bills.

The turnaround since then has been remarkable, with major investments that have brought new jobs, the rebirth of neighborhoods whose best days were half a century ago and the res-toration of street cleaning and lighting — services so basic yet important to a sense of community. It also cost some people more than others.

Jean Estell, 65, worked about three decades in De-troit's recreation and public works departments before retiring in 2004. Like other retirees, she lost part of her pension and all of her retiree health coverage in the bankruptcy settlement with creditors, and she's worried about being left behind in this new Detroit.

"I'm glad we're doing bet-ter. I want us to do better," Estell said of the city. "But it looks like somewhere or other they can find some money and give us our money back. At least some of it."

Before the bankruptcy settlement, she received about \$2,300 per month. Estell said she gets about \$63 less per month from her pension and now has to pay for her own health care. Prescription co-pays that once were \$3 now are \$25 for some of the rough-ly eight medications she takes, and her doctor visits cost more, too.

"I don't go as often as I should. You get sick and you suffer through it," she said.

Given where Detroit stood five years ago, things could be worse for the city's roughly 670,000 residents, including current and former city workers affected by the settlement, said James McTevia, a turn-around expert and man-aging member of McTevia & Associates in suburban



In this July 11, 2018 photo, James Murphy, left, and Bryan Knoche work the counter at Fred's Key Shop in Midtown Detroit.

Associated Press

Detroit.

"Before Detroit sought the protection of the courts to resolve its financial prob-lems, the citizens — who are the real people that count — were in a lot worse shape than they are now," he said. "Before the bank-ruptcy, the citizens were not getting the services they deserved. They were having trouble with water, sewer, garbage, feeling se-cure."

Indeed, when state-ap-pointed emergency man-ager Kevyn Orr filed for Chapter 9 protection for Detroit on July 18, 2013, residential streets hadn't been swept in about three years and the city was well on its way to tearing down thousands of homes aban-doned during the exodus of more than a million peo-

ple that began in the 1950s. With its tax base decimat-ed, Detroit's faced \$14 bil-lion in long-term debt and a \$327 million budget de-ficit in 2013. City workers, including police and fire-fighters, had their pay cut. Employees were forced to take unpaid days off. Detroit emerged from bankruptcy in December 2014, having restructured or wiped out \$7 billion in debt. The city was forced to fol-low a strict spending plan and has been able to build cash surpluses while post-ing three consecutive years of balanced budgets. Weeks after Detroit was released from active state oversight, Moody's Inves-tors Service upgraded the city's credit rating this spring — the third upgrade in less than three years.

"Since Detroit came out of bankruptcy, there have been billions of dollars spent in Detroit," McTevia said. "People that were once fearful in investing in the city just fell over them-selves to invest in Detroit. If you go to Detroit now, it's a different city than it was five years ago. It has a dif-ferent image and it is a vi-brant city."

At Fred's Key Shop, a family-owned Midtown locksmith that has been in business for more than 50 years, work-ers have seen the change. Fred's is a few blocks from a year-old professional hock-ey and basketball arena and a planned commer-cial, residential and enter-tainment district.

"We're busier than ever," said office manager Bryan Knoche. "More people are

moving into Midtown and that means more busi-ness to be had. There also weren't fancy restaurants five years ago. There's defi-nitely a lot of money com-ing into the area and peo-ple coming in from New York and L.A."

So far, such opportunities have eluded former De-troit business owner Steve Brown.

Brown, 58, said he once had 15 employees and contracted with Detroit to help repair streets. Now he works for his father's truck-ing company.

The contract and the bulk of his work ended after the city entered bankruptcy. Brown said he considered switching over to demoli-tion work, but had trouble getting a loan to buy the equipment.

"I didn't have enough funds to get started like I wanted to," he said.

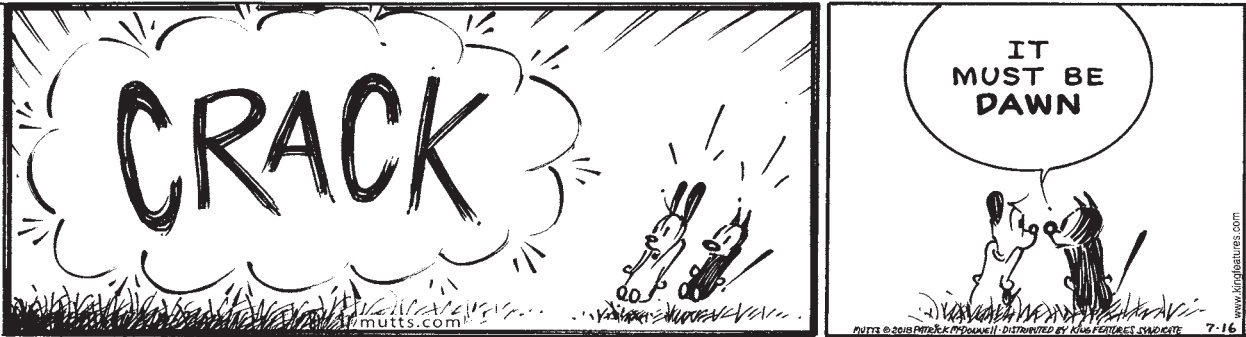
Some parts of the city, like downtown and the Mid-town cultural district, had been on the upswing be-fore the bankruptcy filing but many broken neigh-borhoods still suffered. Savings from the bankruptcy has allowed Detroit to spend more to improve quality of life. Street sweeping re-sumed last year, and De-troit has thousands of new street lights. Police and paramedics show up more quickly when 911 is called. Investors are building hun-dreds of apartments, con-dominiums and homes in and around the downtown area. The city, along with philanthropies and non-profits, is fixing up older homes.

There's still room for im-provement.

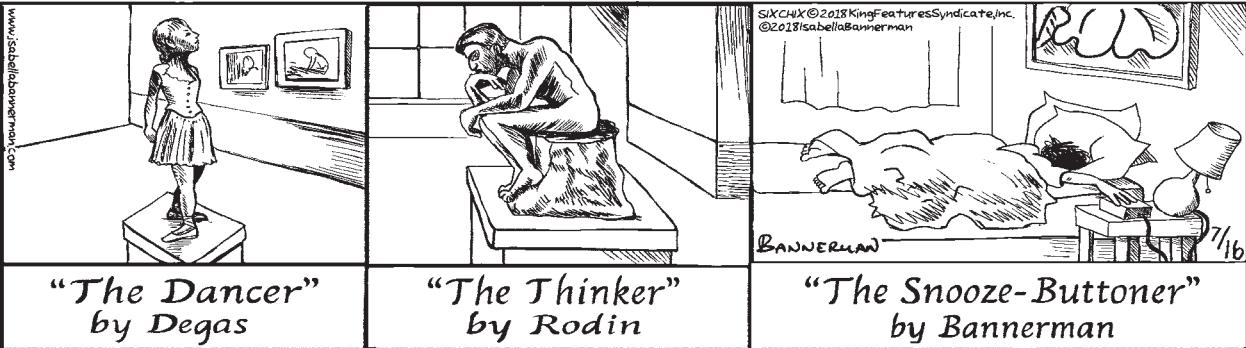
Alice Holland, who lives in Brightmoor, said crews cut the high grass in vacant lots but don't clear enough of the illegally dumped trash from the neighborhood, which clogs drains and causes streets to flood dur-ing strong storms.

"You'll see me ... taking my stick and cleaning out the drains," she said. "I like the city and what's going on. You can fix up downtown, but fix up the neigh-borhoods, too." □

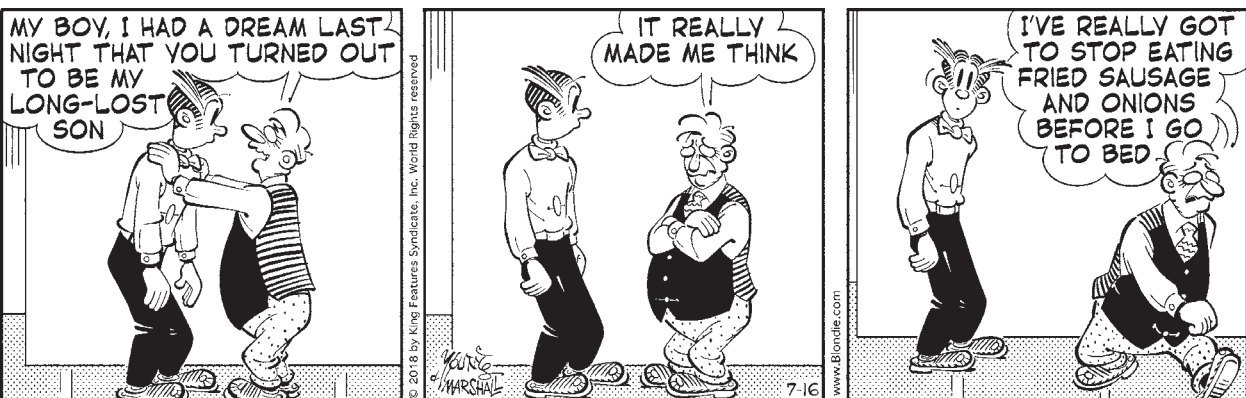
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6		7		3	1	4		8
	1			8	7			
5			9					6
		6			5		8	2
3	8						5	7
7	9		3			6		
4					9			5
			4	7			3	
2		9	8	5		7		1

Difficulty Level ★ 7/16

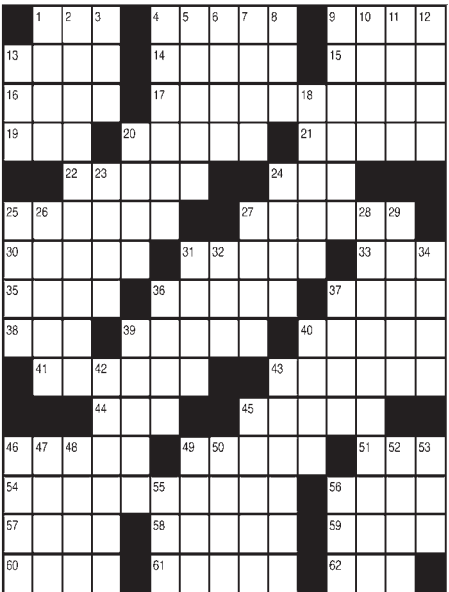
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

2	4	1	3	8	9	6	7	5
3	5	6	4	7	1	9	2	8
8	7	9	2	6	5	1	3	4
4	1	8	9	3	2	5	6	7
6	2	5	7	1	8	3	4	9
7	9	3	6	5	4	2	8	1
9	8	4	1	2	6	7	5	3
1	6	7	5	4	3	8	9	2
5	3	2	8	9	7	4	1	6

ACROSS

- 1 ___ and sis; siblings
- 4 Uses a sieve
- 9 Slightly open
- 13 Get bigger
- 14 ___ to; before
- 15 Actor Rob ___
- 16 ___ Street; NY Stock Exchange location
- 17 Sounds familiar
- 19 Flying insect
- 20 Elephant teeth
- 21 Unkempt
- 22 Be a freeloader
- 24 Mustang or Jaguar
- 25 Author Charlotte
- 27 Palace
- 30 Cowboy competition
- 31 Jail rooms
- 33 Ames and Sullivan
- 35 Eras
- 36 Christmas song
- 37 Created
- 38 Actor Brynner
- 39 Unclothed
- 40 Bulgaria's capital
- 41 Flee
- 43 Chickenpox symptoms
- 44 "Thanks a ___"
- 45 Rope with a noose
- 46 "Get lost!"
- 49 Gets caught on a thorn
- 51 ___ Beta Kappa
- 54 Nutritious
- 56 Made fun of
- 57 Encourage
- 58 Small weight
- 59 Rescuer
- 60 Finest
- 61 Spirited horse
- 62 "Diamonds ___ Forever"; 007 film



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/16/18

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

TORO	PETAL	RUBS
AXED	LLAMA	OREO
MEAD	ADDIS	ABABA
ENS	AGES	TILER
OCCUR	CON	
SENATE	TENSER	
AMASS	SPADE	VAT
RIBS	AISLE	BETH
ILL	PUPIL	MARIA
YEARS	CANYON	
TAT	RENEW	
SCOOT	COME	HOG
NOM	DEPLUME	BEAU
AVID	HELEN	IRKS
GETS	DEPOT	NEST

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7/16/18

DOWN

- 1 Scottish hillside
- 2 Folks worth imitating
- 3 Night bird
- 4 Evergreen tree
- 5 Dublin residents

- 6 Tattletale
- 7 Clothes
- 8 Last year's Jrs.
- 9 Mr. Einstein
- 10 Montana & others
- 11 Hole-making tools
- 12 ___ on; have confidence in
- 13 Initials for Clinton's successor
- 18 Accumulate
- 20 Oz visitor
- 23 Singles
- 24 ___ for; summon
- 25 Donkey's cry
- 26 Scoundrel
- 27 Lump of dirt
- 28 Jumping insect
- 29 Liz's Fisher
- 31 Dessert choice
- 32 Before
- 34 Yellow and Aegean
- 36 Hook or Kangaroo; abbr.
- 37 Velvety green ground cover

- 39 One of the Judds
- 40 Be disrespectful
- 42 Red wine
- 43 Frayed
- 45 Cyclist
- 46 Ignore with disdain
- 47 Apple's center
- 48 Carpets
- 49 Close
- 50 Bedtime, for some
- 52 In this place
- 53 Wedding words
- 55 Distress signal
- 56 Cry of discovery

Crumbling captain's home is being dismantled ever so slowly

Associated Press
SEARSPORT, Maine (AP) — A crumbling gem of a home built by a sea captain is being dismantled in slow motion, so slowly that some people wonder whether Mother Nature will raze it before the owner completes the job. Searsport officials told the owner of the 150-plus-year-old home to tear it down more than two years ago. The owner, Doug Brown, said he's complying with the demolition order at his own pace, dismantling the home piece by piece. He told the Bangor Daily News he's salvaging antiques and woodwork, including a cypress staircase.



In this Wednesday, July 11, 2018 photo, the former home of sea captain is seen in Searsport, Maine.

Associated Press

Tourists and others on heavily traveled U.S. 1 have been watching the deterioration for years. The striking Victorian home has been vacant for more than two decades. Capt. Joseph Loomis Park built the house in the 1860s. These days, the home's sagging countenance, weathered clapboards, broken windows and overgrown shrubs contribute to the

appearance of a haunted mansion. It's popular with photographers and artists who marvel at the longevity of a structure that looks to be so fragile that it could be toppled by a gentle sea breeze. Code enforcement officer Randy Hall said he's weary of the slow progress and is worried someone might get hurt trying to get too

close to the building. He said he could ask town officials to knock down the condemned building, possibly in the fall. "I've been patient," Hall said. "But I think it's close to time that we stepped in."

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*WK 52 OV \$48k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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Tracking bobcats: Researchers need help finding GPS collars

By DAVE COLLINS

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — In a couple of weeks, collars on cats across the state will be falling off.

But it's not some prank or devious experiment — it's one of the largest studies of its kind on bobcats.

The GPS collars were placed on 50 bobcats last fall as part of research by wildlife biologists at the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to track the movements of one of the Northeast's most ferocious predators.

The agency is asking for the public's help in finding the collars on and after Aug. 1, when they are programmed to fall off. The goal is to find all the collars, recharge their batteries and place them back on another 50 bobcats in the fall to continue the study. The research is important



In this Sept. 28, 2017 photo, a bobcat wears a GPS tracking collar while walking through a field in New Milford, Conn.

Associated Press

for conservation efforts because bobcats have more of an effect on animal species than any other predators in the region, con-

suming mice, chipmunks, rabbits, squirrels, skunks, raccoons and even deer, said Jason Hawley, a DEEP wildlife biologist. The bob-

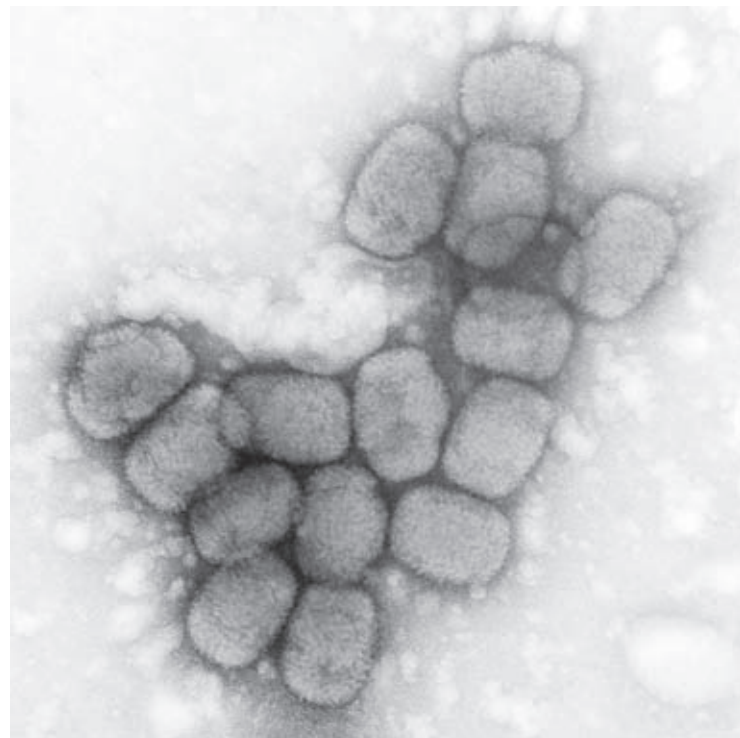
cats also eat small livestock such as chickens and, sometimes, small pets.

"In Connecticut, they're probably our apex preda-

tor," Hawley said. "It's pretty amazing actually. They don't get over 30 to 35 pounds (14 to 16 kilograms), and they can take down deer. The status of our bobcat population in the state can tell us a lot about other animals."

The study may end up showing a need to reduce the bobcat population to conserve other species, he said. Bobcats are found all over North America. In Connecticut, they nearly vanished because of a \$5 bounty offered by the state for decades and massive deforesting due to farming. The population has rebounded after the state reclassified bobcats as protected furbearers in the early 1970s and eliminated hunting and trapping seasons and forests grew back to cover about 60 percent of the state, up from 25 percent in 1825. □

FDA OKs 1st drug to treat smallpox, in case of terror attack



This 1975 microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a cluster of smallpox viruses.

Associated Press

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press

U.S. regulators Friday approved the first treatment for smallpox — a deadly disease that was wiped out four decades ago — in case the virus is used in a terror attack.

Smallpox, which is highly contagious, was eradicated worldwide by 1980 after a huge vaccination campaign.

But people born since then haven't been vaccinated, and small samples of the smallpox virus were saved for research purposes, leaving the possibility it could be used as a biological weapon. Maker SIGA Technologies of New York has already delivered 2 million treatments that will be stockpiled by the govern-

ment, which partially paid for the development of the drug, called TPOXX.

To test the drug's effectiveness, monkeys and rabbits were infected with a similar virus and then given the drug. More than 90 percent survived, the company said. Its safety was tested in several hundred healthy volunteers, who were not infected with smallpox.

Smallpox killed about 300 million people worldwide in the 20th century before its eradication. Symptoms include fever, fatigue and pus-filled sores. Until now, doctors could only provide supportive care such as IV fluids and fever remedies and isolate the patients. Vaccination can be used to prevent infection but it must be done within five

days of exposure to the virus, well before symptoms appear.

"This new treatment affords us an additional option should smallpox ever be used as a bioweapon," Dr. Scott Gottlieb, head of the Food and Drug Administration, said in a statement.

The drug is a capsule, taken twice daily for 14 days. SIGA develops vaccines and medicines for biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear attacks. Chief Executive Phil Gomez said the company is developing an IV version and is exploring selling the drug to other countries and developing it to treat other infectious diseases, including monkeypox, which African monkeys can transmit to humans. □

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Nancy Sinatra Sr., first wife of Frank Sinatra, dies at 101

By JOHN ROGERS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nancy Sinatra Sr., the childhood sweetheart of Frank Sinatra who became the first of his four wives and the mother of his three children, has died. She was 101.

Her daughter, Nancy Sinatra Jr., tweeted that her mother died Friday and a posting on her web page said she died at 6:02 p.m. but didn't indicate where she died.

"She was a blessing and the light of my life," her daughter said.

Attempts to reach representatives for Sinatra Jr. late Friday were unsuccessful.

Nancy and Frank Sinatra had been dating as teenagers and married at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic church in Jersey City, New Jersey, on Feb. 4, 1939, just as Frank's singing career was about to take off. Three years before marrying the former Nancy Barbato, he had landed a 15-minute



In this Feb. 5, 1971 file photo, producer Ross Hunter and Nancy Sinatra Sr., pose at the Golden Globe Awards in Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Associated Press

radio show on local station WAAT.

During the marriage's early years, the Sinatras lived in a modest apartment in Jersey City, where their two eldest children were born.

For a time she was employed as a secretary while her husband worked as a singing waiter.

After Sinatra became a pop-music sensation in the 1940s, the couple moved

to Los Angeles, where the singer would also become a movie star, raconteur, man about town and notorious womanizer.

Nancy Sinatra left Frank after his affair with actress Ava Gardner became public knowledge. Weeks after the pair's divorce became final in 1951, Sinatra's ex-husband married Gardner, while Sinatra went on to raise the couple's three children: Nancy, Frank Jr. and Tina.

After the gossip over the divorce and Gardner marriage died down, Nancy Sinatra devoted herself to family and numerous celebrity friends, largely withdrawing from the spotlight. She not only outlived her husband, who died in 1998, but her son, who died in 2016.

She is credited, under the name Nancy Barbato, on the Internet Movie Database with just two TV and film appearances, in her

daughter Nancy's 1975 concert film, "Nancy and Lee in Las Vegas," and in 1974 on her friend Dinah Shore's talk show.

In later years she would become known as Nancy Sr., especially after daughter Nancy became a 1960s singing star in her own right with "These Boots Are Made For Walking" and other hit songs.

She also remained friendly with her ex-husband, the latter being said to have put in requests over the years for pasta and other Italian food dishes she was known to be an expert at preparing. She never remarried.

"There is no bitterness, only great respect and affection between Sinatra and his first wife," Gay Talese wrote in 1966, "and he has long been welcome in her home and has even been known to wander in at odd hours, stoke the fire, lie on the sofa, and fall asleep." □

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'Hotel Transylvania 3' tops charts, 'Skyscraper' stumbles

By LINDSEY BAHR

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation" has checked into the No. 1 spot at the box office in its opening weekend and left the Dwayne Johnson action thriller, "Skyscraper," in the dust.

Sony Pictures estimated Sunday that the animated family movie earned \$44.1 million from North American theaters. As the first in the franchise to open in the summer, it's just slightly under the previous installment's \$48.5 million debut in September 2015.

Worldwide, "Hotel Transylvania 3" has already earned more than \$100 million. "It's really terrific," said Adrian Smith, Sony's head of domestic distribution. "We're positioned to take advantage of the valuable summer weekdays and there are six weeks of summer left."

The successful series has grossed over \$900 million worldwide to date.

Going into the weekend, experts expected a three-way race to the top between "Hotel Transylvania



This image released by Sony Pictures Animation shows a scene from "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation."

Associated Press

3," "Skyscraper" and "Ant-Man and the Wasp," but the family film won by a large margin.

"There haven't been a lot of options for families this summer," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "They become instant hits." Johnson's "Skyscraper," a rare original summer blockbuster, remained earthbound in its first weekend in North

America. The Universal Pictures film brought in only \$25.5 million domestically. "Skyscraper" cost a reported \$125 million to produce, not accounting for marketing costs. Johnson has been a consistent presence in movie theaters this year with both "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" and "Rampage" prior to "Skyscraper." Both previ-

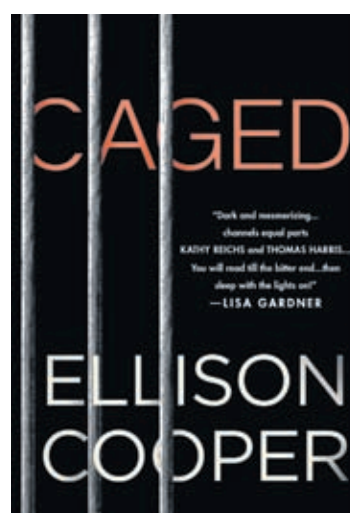
ous films opened in the \$35 million range, and while "Jumanji" went on to be a worldwide box office juggernaut, "Rampage" petered out domestically just under \$100 million. As with "Rampage," however, the studio is expecting the majority of "Skyscraper" profits to come from international audiences. "Skyscraper" is really engineered for a

global release and it got a terrific start," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "We have great faith in a more than terrific run at the domestic box office going forward." Internationally, "Skyscraper" grossed \$40.4 million from 57 territories for a global total of \$65.9 million. Second place went to Disney and Marvel's "Ant-Man and the Wasp," which brought in an additional \$28.8 million in its second weekend, down 62 percent from last week. It's one of the steeper second week falls in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The first "Ant-Man" fell 53 percent.

"Incredibles 2" took fourth place with \$16.2 million and "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" rounded out the top five with \$15.5 million.

A handful of smaller releases made notable splashes this weekend including Annapurna's buzzy dystopian satire "Sorry to Bother You," which opened in limited release last week and added 789 locations this weekend. □

Ellison Cooper's 'Caged' punctuated with believable twists



This book cover image released by Minotaur shows "Caged," by Ellison Cooper.

Associated Press

By OLIVE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

"Caged" (Minotaur Books), by Ellison Cooper

The FBI's hunt for a serial killer fuels Ellison Cooper's intense debut that introduces FBI special agent and

neuroscientist Sayer Altair. Cooper's relentless energetic storytelling elevates "Caged" beyond the typical serial killer novel as the author weaves in real science to create some unique twists. Cooper also wisely avoids the overly gruesome details that mar many serial-killer novels as she makes her story more about people and their personalities.

The prickly Sayer makes a fine heroine for this new series. Sayer usually is the smartest person in the room, with a complicated background that adds texture to the story. Her career takes priority as she grapples with the pain of losing loved ones, leaving her incredibly lonely. Her spur-of-the-moment decision to take home a little dog found at a crime scene is a

start to caring about others once more.

Sayer would rather be continuing her research into the brain patterns of murderers, but her supervisor, FBI Assistant Director Janice Holt, forces her to put that work on hold to take charge of a high-profile investigation. The body of ambitious Sen. Charles Van Hurst's daughter, Gwendolyn, who disappeared a year ago, has been found locked in a cage in a Washington, D.C., house. The senator, a potential presidential candidate, tries to hijack the investigation, holding press conferences and naming suspects who are merely witnesses. Sayer doesn't have time to play politics or soothe egos as she learns another young woman may be held in a different location. □

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	DWAYNE JOHNSON NEVE CAMPBELL SKYSCRAPER CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM 2D MON-THURS 4:35 6:55 9:15 FRIDAY 4:35 6:55 9:15 11:35 SATURDAY 2:15 4:35 6:55 9:15 11:35 SUN & HOL 2:15 4:35 6:55 9:15 MON-THURS & SUN 3:50 6:10 8:30 FRIDAY-SATURDAY 3:50 6:10 8:30 10:50	
	PAUL RUDD EVANGELINE LILLY ANTHONY AND THE WASP WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-FRIDAY 4:15 6:50 9:25 SAT & SUN 1:45 4:15 6:50 9:25	
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CHRIS PRATT JEFF GOLDBLUM JURASSIC WORLD WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 3:45 6:25 9:10	SAMUEL L. JACKSON CRAIG T. NELSON INCREDIBLES 2 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THURS 5:50 8:30 FRIDAY 5:50 8:30 11:10 SATURDAY 3:10 5:50 8:30 11:10 SUNDAY 3:10 5:50 8:30	SYLVESTER STALLONE DAVE BAUTISTA ESCAPE MON-THURS & SUN 9:20 FRI & SAT 9:20 11:30
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Television academy: thumbs down on the latest reboots

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Television executives and many viewers love the idea of reviving series and ideas from the past. Emmy voters? Not so much.

"Roseanne" quickly became television's top-rated comedy upon its return, until ABC pulled the plug following star Roseanne Barr's racist tweet. The series was not among the eight comedies nominated for an Emmy on Thursday, however. Laurie Metcalf earned a supporting actress nod, but Barr and Conner family patriarch John Goodman were ignored.

Similarly, NBC's "Will & Grace" reboot didn't earn a comedy nomination despite solid reviews. Of the four main stars, only Megan Mullally has the chance to bring home some hardware from the September show. Sean Hayes' absence was a particular surprise.



This image released by NBC shows Debra Messing as Grace Adler, left, and Sean Hayes as Jack McFarland in a scene from "Will & Grace."

Associated Press

Popularity doesn't indicate much with the television academy, anyway. "Young Sheldon," a spinoff of CBS' popular "The Big Bang Theory," got no Emmy love, either. "The Walking Dead"

got little respect from the Emmys when it was a sensation; still popular but fading, the show still isn't recognized. Being a returning series — as opposed to something

shiny, new or streaming — seemed to hurt "Twin Peaks." The Showtime reboot won't compete in the limited series category. Actor Kyle MacLachlan similarly did not earn an actor's

nomination.

"Game of Thrones" and "The Handmaid's Tale" were no surprises with big nomination hauls in the drama categories. Although "Game of Thrones" actors Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Peter Dinklage and Lena Headey will compete for supporting actor trophies, the Emmys stubbornly refuse to consider the show's stars for the top acting trophies, probably because it's in the fantasy realm, said Tom O'Neil, editor of the awards handicapping web site Gold Derby.

"For the lead roles, they want pretension and 'Game of Thrones' doesn't deliver that," O'Neil said.

In the major categories, both HBO's hitman comedy "Barry" and the drama "Westworld" overperformed in terms of expected nominations, setting up some spirited competition, O'Neil said. □

Scarlett Johansson pulls out of trans drama after backlash



This 1979 photo shows transgender man Dante "Tex" Gill, flanked by masked Frank Cocchiara and Donna Potts while leaving the Public Safety Building in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Scarlett Johansson on Friday withdrew from the film "Rub &

Tug" after her plans to portray a transgender man prompted a backlash.

In a statement to Out.com on Friday, Johansson said

she's pulling out from the project "in light of recent ethical questions raised surrounding my casting." Last week, Johansson said she would star as Pittsburgh 1970s and '80s prostitution ring leader Dante "Tex" Gill, who was born Lois Jean Gill but identified as a man.

When transgender actors and advocates questioned the casting, Johansson initially responded with a statement that criticism "can be directed to Jeffrey Tambor, Jared Leto and Felicity Huffman's reps." All are cisgender actors who won acclaim for playing transgender characters.

"Our cultural understanding of transgender people continues to advance, and I've learned a lot from the community since making my first statement about my casting and realize it was insensitive," said Johansson, who added that she had "great admiration and love for the trans community."

"While I would have loved the opportunity to bring Dante's story and transition

to life, I understand why many feel he should be portrayed by a transgender person, and I am thankful that this casting debate, albeit controversial, has sparked a larger conversation about diversity and representation in film," the actress added.

Johansson previously came under fire for playing an originally Asian character in the 2017 film "Ghost in the Shell." That film's director, Rupert Sanders, was set to also helm "Rub & Tug."

It's not clear if the film, which Johansson was also producing, will go forward. A representative for Johansson didn't respond to an email Friday. A spokesman for New Regency, which was set to produce "Rub & Tug," said it's uncertain what will happen with the film.

Some critics have argued that trans roles should be played by trans actors. Last week, numerous trans actors responded to Johansson's casting as another sign of a lack of opportunity for trans actors.

"Actors who are trans never even get to audition for anything other than roles of trans characters," Jamie Clayton, a transgender actress who stars in Netflix's "Sense8." "That's the real issue. We can't even get in the room."

Jen Richards, trans activist and creator of the web series "Her Story," praised Johansson for stepping down. "If you're tired of hearing about it, you can't imagine how tired trans actors are of talking about it," Richards said on Twitter. "We just want to work. And with more trans and nonbinary people, of all kinds, participating, the work will be a better and richer representation of our world. This is a win."

GLAAD, formerly known as the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said in a statement: "Scarlett Johansson's announcement, together with the transgender voices who spoke out about this film, are game changers for the future of transgender images in Hollywood." □

'It keeps us safe': An NYC bathroom set up to stem overdoses

By JENNIFER PELTZ

NEW YORK (AP) — At an unassuming storefront on a busy Brooklyn street, people sign up to use a bathroom outfitted to try to curb an overdose crisis.

Waiting his turn, a man named Robert is frank about why he's there, instead of one of the stairwells, parks, rooftops or porches where he has used heroin in the past.

"It keeps us safe. It keeps us from getting arrested. You feel secure here," says Robert, who discussed his drug use on condition that his last name not be used because he fears arrest and damage to family relationships. "You know that someone's paying attention if you fall out in there. ... You know they're not going to let nothing happen to you."

As communities debate trying to stem overdose deaths by allowing safe havens for people to take heroin and other narcotics, places like this needle exchange program are quietly providing a model of sorts: bathrooms monitored by intercom, so someone can intervene to stop an overdose.

Officially, they aren't the more full-fledged and controversial facilities — often called safe injection sites — that cities including New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle are seeking to open and that already operate overseas. At the same time, some counties and cities have pre-emptively banned injection sites, and federal



In this Tuesday, July 3, 2018 photo, Evelyn Milan director of services at VOCAL-NY, prepares a package with sterile injecting equipment for a member in the Brooklyn, New York.

Associated Press

officials have said they're illegal.

While the discussion plays out, Robert and about a dozen other people turned up on a recent afternoon to use the bathroom off the green-and-orange drop-in room at VOCAL-NY, where work includes needle exchange, support groups and advocacy campaigns. A sign on the bathroom allows 10 minutes "to take care of business." But every three minutes, a staffer checks in by intercom. If there's no response, the staffer will release the door lock and come in, ready to administer anti-overdose medication. In eight years, a few people have overdosed but all have been rescued, VOCAL says.

If not official, the restroom isn't exactly underground, either. State Health Department policies suggest that needle exchange programs bathrooms have such safeguards.

"This bathroom is literally a response to hundreds of overdose deaths in bathrooms and streets across the city," Jeremy Saunders, VOCAL's co-executive director. "You can say we're enabling people, but what we would say is: At what point do you want us to stop caring?"

Opioid drugs — including pain pills, heroin and the heavy-duty painkiller fentanyl — have spawned the deadliest epidemic of drug overdoses in U.S. history. It has killed over 47,000 people nationwide in the 12 months that ended in November, the most recent federal data.

About 100 supervised injection sites have opened in Canada, Australia and Europe over the past 30 years. At least one has been operating under the radar somewhere in the U.S. since 2014, according to a research paper.

The mayor of the college town of Ithaca, New York, proposed a supervised injection space in 2016. Now New York is seeking state and community approval for a one-year test of four

"overdose prevention centers" at privately run syringe-exchange programs, and Philadelphia is looking for organizations interested in running or funding injection sites.

San Francisco initially hoped to open two sites this summer or fall but now isn't setting a timeframe while working through legal issues. Seattle has budgeted \$1.3 million this year to work toward launching a site, while opponents have been trying for a public vote on banning it.

A typical site would go well beyond VOCAL's bathroom, offering a space with tables or booths set up with sterile syringes, alcohol swabs and other accoutrements.

As people injected themselves, staffers would watch for trouble signs and jump in with overdose-reversing drugs if needed. Workers would look for opportunities to discuss treatment, and advocates argue the caring-but-not-coercive approach helps people make changes. But the main goal is simply survival. "You can't detox if you're dead. You can't treat someone if they're dead," says Cassandra Frederique, New York state director of the Drug Policy Alliance, which advocates for less restrictive drug laws.

There has never been a reported overdose death at a supervised injection site, according to studies that say the facilities also reduce HIV infections and 911 calls for overdoses, among other problems. Researchers estimated New York's City's proposal could prevent 130 deaths and save \$7 million in health care expenses per year. "The evidence is absolutely clear that (the concept) has these great benefits," says injection-site researcher Alex Kral, a researcher at the RTI International research institute. "Once people understand it, I have a hard time understanding how anyone could be against it."

Tell that to Snohomish County Councilman Nate Nehring, who recently spearheaded a safe injection site ban in his county north of Seattle; they're also prohibited in some Snohomish cities and Pierce County, south of Seattle. □



In this Tuesday, June 19, 2018 photo, a timer placed on a sign-in sheet counts down the 10 minutes members are allowed to use the bathroom at VOCAL-NY in Brooklyn, New York.

Associated Press



In this Tuesday, July 3, 2018 photo, a Narcan nasal device, which delivers naloxone, lies on a counter as VOCAL-NY coordinator Laura Levine gives a volunteer instructions on how to administer it at the headquarters in the Brooklyn, New York.

Associated Press